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Palestinian Affairs

Executive Committee Member Rejects Baker Plan

LD1711103889 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Kuwait 17 Nov 89 (KUNA)—In an interview published here today, a Palestinian official strongly rejected the U.S. secretary of state's plan on the Middle East as an attempt to restrict the Palestinian cause within a procedural framework, to move it away from the international conference, and to restrict it to negotiations between Egypt, the United States and Israel.

The official, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, who is the member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the PLO Information Department, stressed to Kuwaiti AL-'ANBA that Palestinian representation is an internal Palestinian affair and is a non-negotiable issue "and anyone who confuses readiness for peace with readiness to surrender is mistaken."

'Abd Rabbuh added that the PLO yesterday submitted an urgent request to the Arab League General Secretariat to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Arab foreign ministers to discuss recent developments in the Palestinian arena and to adopt a united stance toward them.

The Palestinian official concentrated on a document submitted by the foreign minister of the zionist entity, Moshe Arens, to the UN and was distributed as an official document. He said that that document considers the occupied territories a part of the Israeli territories, and it also considers the Palestinians mere residents there who could be granted some local administrative and electoral rights provided there is an agreement on peace.

'Abd Rabbuh said the major principle of any successful Palestinian-Israeli dialogue is the equality in the dialogue between two equal sides, under suitable international supervision and according to a firm agenda to reach a final and comprehensive settlement.

He expressed his belief that the so-called dialogue—as he described it—will serve nothing but the Israeli plan as expressed by Arens in the aforementioned document.

He reiterated the Palestinian stance toward the dialogue proposals which, he said, should prepare for the international conference. He also said that the PLO should form the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue within the framework of the international conference, as specified by the international resolutions on the Palestinian issue, and which should be internationally attended, at least by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

U.S. Response to PLO Queries Termed 'Very Vague'

JN1711115789 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Dubayy—The PLO has called for an extraordinary Arab foreign ministers meeting to discuss the latest developments of the Palestine question and take a unified stand on them. In a statement published in Dubayy today, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the PLO Information Department, said the PLO yesterday officially asked the Arab League General Secretariat to call the meeting. He added that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue seeks to confine the Palestine question within an Israeli procedural framework and to separate this question from the call for an international conference, turning the Palestinian participation into an issue to be negotiated among Egypt, the United States, and Israel. 'Abd-Rabbuh described the U.S. response to the Palestinian queries presented by the PLO through Egypt as very vague. He affirmed the PLO cannot bargain over the issue of Palestinian representation given that it is an internal Palestinian affair.

PLO Representative Meets U.S. Charge in Tunis

LD1511235289 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Hakam Bil'awi, the PLO representative in Tunis, conferred in Tunis last night with the charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Tunis in the presence of the U.S. Embassy's political adviser. WAFA, which carried this news item, said that such a meeting falls within the framework of the continuation of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and the review of efforts to provide impetus for the development of peace efforts in the Middle East. Furthermore, the latest developments of concern to this problem, as well as the means for achieving a real and serious progress in the benefit of the peace process and the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, were reviewed.

Fath's Salah Khalaf Cited on Baker Plan

NC1611154589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Tunis, 16 Nov (MENA)—Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, has affirmed that the Palestinian state which was proclaimed in Algeria is more than mere words on a piece of paper and that the Palestinian people themselves embody this state.

At a gathering held by the Palestinian Writers and Journalist Federation in Tunis last night to celebrate the 1st anniversary of the proclamation of Palestinian independence, Abu-Iyad noted that the day will come when the Israeli occupation will be vanquished and the Palestinians can gather on their soil to raise the Palestinian flag over the al-Aqsa mosque and the Holy Sepulcher.

Until that day, Abu-Iyad said, the Palestinian people must hold on to the principles and the foundations on which this state and the contemporary Palestinian struggle were built.

Abu-Iyad asserted that Egypt is committed not to hold any talks on the Palestinian problem without consulting

the PLO. He remarked that the leaders in Tel Aviv are burying their heads in the sand and that all they want is to obliterate the PLO.

Abu-Iyad said that U.S Secretary of State James Baker's plan will leave us emptyhanded, for it boils down to nothing but incoherent proposals. When when ask for clarifications and explanations, they give us more ambiguous answers, he said.

Abu-Iyad warned the United States and Israel against pushing the Palestinian people to desperation, asserting that the Palestinians are eager to reach a settlement leading to a Palestinian state.

He said: We are going through a political predicament. However, he added, this predicament has nothing to do with the future of the Palestinian state. He asserted that the current generation will see the birth of that state. The road will be long and difficult and strewn with mines. However, the point is that we should be careful when walking through the mines.

Abu-Iyad said that the Palestinians are faced up with a dangerous enemy and an octopus which is trying to uproot the name of Palestine from world consciousness. He regretted that a superpower like the United States supports and spoils that enemy, which it regards as its irreplaceable tool in the region.

He added: They come up with a new plan every day. As far as I can remember, they used to say that all we had to do to end this situation is recognize UN Security Council Resolution 242 and renounce terrorism. However, he added, they put forward something new every day to persuade us to make more concessions. All they want is to wipe the name of the PLO off the political map.

To achieve this, Abu-Iyad said, they resort to several methods, especially putting forward proposals. Every proposal is designed to make us forget about the PLO. Abu-Iyad added that they fool themselves when they say that the PLO is an obstacle which Israel wants to remove.

According to Abu-Iyad, the PLO is not obliged to be for or against every single proposal, nor is it obliged to say that this is an initiative and that is a new action. He noted that the Palestine Central Council has specified the points to which all should adhere.

Abu-Iyad added that the recent series of proposals and initiatives aim at beheading the PLO. If they take the PLO's head, they will have taken everything, he said. He asserted that the United States and Israel would be deceiving themselves if they thought they could bypass the PLO.

Abu-Iyad added: We may be tired, but Israel's situation in the international arena is worse than ever. At least we have 141 states on our side in the United Nations and they and many others support the Palestinian peace initiative.

In this regard, he pointed to the visit by the European troika delegation and its meeting with the PLO leadership, noting that the meeting symbolized European support for the Palestinian revolution and the PLO.

Abu-Iyad described the troika delegation's visit and its condemnation of Israel's inflexibility as a significant gain which adds enormous moral strength to the cause, noting that the United States had officially asked Europe not to intervene in the Middle East crisis.

He asserted that the USSR stand on the Palestinian issue has not changed, adding that the Soviet Union is preoccupied with its internal situation and current events in Eastern Europe. However, he said, the Soviet Union agrees with the PLO on the need to hold an international peace conference and on the Palestinian people's national rights, particularly the right to self-determination. Abu- Iyad asserted: We are not alone in the world, and this is the source of our power.

He added: If we are in a political predicament, so are the United States and Israel. Our predicament may be less severe, he said. It is true that the United States is a major state. However, it should not underestimate world public opinion which is driving it into a corner, he said.

Abu-Iyad emphasized the importance of a unified Arab stand in support of the Palestinians against the U.S stand on the Palestinian cause.

PLO Radio Sees Gaza 'Operation' as 'Deterrent'

JN1711092389 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1901 GMT 16 Nov 89

["Talk of the Intifadah" feature: "Will the Zionist Enemy Understand That Terrorism Is Useless and That the Intifadah Is an Ongoing Decision?"]

[Text] To the masses of our heroic people in the blazing homeland; to our giant generations and revolutionary youths; to the heroes of our strike forces; to the valiant people in the youth committees and the popular and qualitative committees; to our brothers and sisters in the supreme women's, student, and worker councils and in the national unions, associations, societies, and institutions, the spiteful Zionist soldiers—who are armed to the teeth with weapons and racist orders from their command, and who are possessed by the madness of violence and the hysteria of terrorism—have faced the difficult test in the al-Shaykh 'Ajlin neighborhood on the southern outskirts of the valiant Gaza, when the valiant Palestinian hands which were carrying weapons confronted them and actually pointed these weapons at the chest of those spiteful soldiers, made them panic, and killed them before everybody's eyes.

This heroic, courageous operation carried out by fearless and tough Palestinian men has in fact taken the form of a warning—a serious and armed warning—so that the Zionists can wake up from their delusion and realize that

the terrorism they practice will not be useful but will instead turn against them, bring them misfortune, and lead them to a bad end.

Leaders of the Zionist enemy, along with the soldiers and herds of settlers whom those leaders push to the fire, must understand that, from the first day of the intifadah, the Palestinian leadership issued clear orders that arms must not be used. Our Palestinian masses, giant generations, strike forces, youth organizations, and all other revolutionary formations have shown a splendid commitment and real, firm discipline regarding this decision. And, for 23 consecutive months, the Palestinian side abided by the Palestinian leaders' decision not to use arms despite the provocations that went beyond all limits by those Zionist soldiers and herds of settlers. However, things have reached their limit. The haughtiness of power, the madness of terrorism, and the arrogance of the delusion of the Zionist enemy leaders and thousands of Zionist soldiers and settlers have reached abnormal limits.

We would like to give an example of this. The Zionist soldiers spared no method of blind violence and mad terror used in an ugly, extreme manner. Different types of bullets penetrated the chests of Palestinians—children, women, men, and old men. The Zionist gas—the murderous, poisonous gas; the nerve gas; the asphyxiating gas—follows our people and even the babies in their mothers' wombs. Another example will suffice: the mad storming of the villages, camps, and neighborhoods in which tanks, armored vehicles, and helicopters take part. This means that in its abortive attempts to suppress the intifadah, the enemy resorts to pure military means, methods, and tactics that are very violent, flagrant, and barbaric.

The Zionist soldiers and the herds of settlers, who recently formed armed militia units, have engaged in very ugly and abnormal practices. There are many examples of this—robberies in Bayt Sahur; sealing off, damaging, and desecrating mosques in Jerusalem, Hebron, Gaza, Khan Yunus, and Rafah; beheading a number of detainees and torturing some others to death in many prisons and detention camps; uprooting yielding trees; blowing up houses; kidnapping wounded people from hospitals; and numerous sieges which prevent our people from obtaining their loaf of bread and drops of water.

The Zionist enemy leaders ignored all world pleas, all international agreements and pacts, laws of the world community, and the appeals of the world public opinion which urged the enemy to stop these crimes and respect the minimum limit of the laws, agreements, and pacts. What is taking place will go deep and become entrenched in the consciousness of our masses and giant generations.

The heroic operation carried out by courageous men in the al-Shaykh 'Ajlin neighborhood on the southern outskirts of Gaza came as a deterrent to those Zionist soldiers. It also came as a warning to the Zionist leaders so that they will refrain from injustice, the arrogance of foolish power, and the madness of blind hatred.

Greetings to our valiant men who killed the enemy soldiers in the al-Shaykh 'Ajlin neighborhood. Greetings to our steadfast valiant kinsfolk in heroic Gaza. Greetings to our giant generations and valiant masses in Jerusalem, Nabulus, Hebron, Ramallah, Janin, Tulkarm, and Bethlehem, and in all camps, villages, and towns all over the beloved homeland.

The intifadah will continue; the intifadah is our way of achieving victory.

'Arafat Issues Decree on Identity Cards

NC1711081689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0656 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian Leader Yasir 'Arafat, acting in his capacity as president of the state of Palestine, issued a decreee creating a Palestinian civil status department to issue personal and family identity cards to Palestinians living inside and outside the homeland, as a prelude to the issuing of Palestinian passports.

A Palestinian source today told the Abu Dhabi-based newspaper AL-ITTIHAD that as of the beginning of next month every Palestinian will be entitled to obtain identity cards for himself and his family from Palestinian embassies. As for the Palestinians living inside the homeland, the source said, they may obtain these cards from special committees in the occupied territories. The decree sets a fee of 40 Palestinian pounds for obtaining a personal identity card and another of 10 Palestinian pounds for obtaining a family identity card. The decree also sets the value of the Palestinian pound at $2.50.

The Palestinian identity card will have a blue cover emblazoned with a drawing of the rock dome and the holy sepulcher church framed in the old Canaanite star. The family cards will be brown.

Abu-Nidal Group Reportedly Kills 200 Opponents

NC1711080689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Citing informed PLO sources, AP reports that 200 members of the Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] organization were killed in the recent liquidation campaign in Libya. The agency adds that about 300 followers of Abu-Nidal fled from Libya to escape assassination and went to Algeria, Tunisia, and Lebanon. The dissidents from Abu Nidal group who are now hiding in Algeria include his former close aides 'Atif Abu-Bakr and 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Isa. Sources say that most of these liquidations and assassinations were carried out in Lebanon where Abu-Nidal followers killed 152 of their opponents. Twenty others were killed in the Palestinian camps in Syria. Twenty-two prominent members were killed in Abu-Nidal's house Abu-Nidal in Libya. Mustafa Murad, Abu-Nizar, and al-Haj Abu-Musa were among those killed in Tripoli, Libya.

Algeria

Foreign Minister Confers With Sudan's Tahir

LD1611143389 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] [No dateline as received]—Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Ahmed Ghazali received Brigadier General al-Tijani Adam Tahir, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] who handed the foreign minister a message to President Chadli Bendjedid from Brig Gen Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the NSRCC.

On the other hand, the Sudanese envoy informed Mr Ghazali about the results of the dialogue for peace conference, which was held recently in Khartoum, and about the efforts exerted by the NSRCC toward restoring peace in the south of Sudan and normalizing the situation in that region of the Arab World.

Brig Gen al-Tijani Tahir stressed that the armed opposition receives support and aid from Israel, and that it also rejects the peace initiatives submitted by the Sudanese Government.

In a news conference held yesterday in Algiers, Brig Gen al-Tijani pointed out that the Israeli support to the elements of armed opposition, led by Col John Garang, is not aimed only against Sudan, but also against all the Arab nation. Therefore we were obliged to contact the Arab countries to inform them about what was happening in Sudan. He stressed that his country, despite all this, pursues the establishment of stability and peace.

Concerning the abolition of partisan activities in Sudan, the Sudanese official pointed out that the Western concept of democracy does not suit the developing countries, and that the different political parties in Sudan were trying only to reach the seats of government. He added that the experiment of the People's Committees, which started in Sudan, is an attempt along the path of democracy.

Concerning the economic situation in Sudan, Brig Gen al-Tijani pointed out that the war in the south costs the Sudanese Government mroe than $2.5 million every day, and that the implementation of the economic projects cannot take place except in an atmosphere of stability. Therefore, the first project in rebuilding Sudan must be the establishment of peace.

Ghazali Interviewed in Paris on Lebanon

LD1611224189 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] [Announcer] The Lebanese problem was raised at the Elysee palace [French President's residence]; the occasion was a reception hosted by French President Francois Mitterrand in honor of Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali who conveyed to the French president a message from the President of the Republic Chadli Bendjedid. Sid Ahmed Ghazali gave a statement to the press on leaving the Elysee Palace.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] On what did the talks focus? Was it on the Lebanese problem?

[Ghazali] Of course. I conveyed a message from President Chadli Bendjedid to President Francois Mitterrand and our talks dealt primarily with the Lebanese problem. You are aware of the efforts being exerted by Algeria within the framework of the Arab tripartite committee in order to find a final solution to the Lebanese crisis. The message contained Algeria's evaluation, as well as the evaluation of President Bendjedid, of the current situation and the need to provide more efforts from all peace-loving forces in solidarity with the Lebanese people in order to consolidate the institutions of the Lebanese state as well as the efforts of the new president of the Republic, Rene Mu'awwad, and of Prime Minister Salim al-Huss.

[Unidentified reporter in French] [Words indistinct] not satisfied with the French position on Lebanon. (?Have you seen) any change in the French position?

[Ghazali in French] The result reached by the Arab higher committee was due to the efforts it deployed as well as to the extraordinary support the Higher Committee received from the Arab world and from the international community in general, particularly from the five permanent members of the Security Council, especially France. What we have said is that time has come—taking into account the current situation—that all those who have contributed to the peace process do not give up and should exert more effort in order not to give any hope to those who have adopted maverick attitudes which would lead to adventurism, that is, to the resumption of war. This is a serious danger and everybody should be aware of it.

[Unidentified reporter] Have you asked the French president to exert pressure on General Michel 'Awn to soften his stance?

[Ghazali] We talked with the President and told him of our stance. It seems to us, however, that Algeria and France share the same point of view and that there is a strong determination to implement the al-Ta'if accord on Lebanese territory. There is no ambiquity in the French position.

[Unidentified reporter] Will France have any contacts with Gen Michel 'Awn in this matter?

[Ghazali] This is a matter for the French Government.

[Unidentified reporter] Will the minister answer a last question? It is for Radio Monte Carlo. In the event Salim al-Huss fails to form a government of national concord, what will then be the solution of the Arab higher committee?

[Ghazali] I do not see failure as the more probable thing; rather I see success as more probable. However, we

should not ignore the fact that there is only one hindering party—the party which has chosen the opposition. There are possibilities, and all the countries that have supported the Lebanese people and would like the latter to have the last word, agree that there is a need to put an end to this opposition [to the al-Ta'if accord]. [end recording]

Customs Official on Drug Smuggling Operations

LD1611145889 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The phenomenon of smuggling has reached dangerous proportions in our country, especially in the past few years. This phenomenon occurs at two levels: the smuggling of essential commodities to the neighboring countries and the smuggling of drugs abroad via Algerian territory. The seriousness of this scourge is reflected in the figures and statistics registered by the National Customs.

The director of planning and studies at the General Directorate of National Customs, Mr Harriche, talks about this issue to our colleague Aicha Daghar.

[Begin recording] [Daghar] There are various goods and it is virtually impossible and difficult to enumerate them in detail. However, we can give figures for the essential commodities, such as sugar of which we seized 39,000 kilos in 1988. We also seized 80,000 kilos of tea; 3,000 liters of (cooking) oil; 17,000 kilos of semoulina; 7,000 kilos of pasta; 7,560 sheep; 366 cows; 1,323 horses, mules, and donkeys. Regarding drugs, we had seized over 1,030 kilos in 1987. In 1988 the figure was 1,200 kilos and in 1989 the figure will probably be higher although the statistics for the year are not complete. However regarding drugs, there has been a steady increase in the number of contraventions on the one hand and in the quantities seized on the other.

The smuggling of drugs to Europe via Algeria territory is done mainly through the ports and the airports. Customs has seized an important quantity of this product to the extent that some people are considering Algeria an exporter of drugs. Mr Harriche replies to a question in this respect.

[Harriche] Regarding the exportation of drugs, some people are probably saying that if Algeria is exporting, it must be producing as well. But this exportation occurs after the importation. The importation is mainly from Morocco and the Moroccans use Algeria because it is known in European states—to which the drugs are exported—that first, Algeria does not produce drugs and second, the laws and the punishments in Algeria for using or trafficking in drugs are severe. Therefore the majority of foreigners, particularly the Europeans—whom we have apprehended at the ports or at the airports while trying to export drugs—had come from the neighboring countries. This phenomenon, that is, the smuggling and exportation of drugs, is spreading as you probably see in the newspapers almost every day. It is happening in Annaba, Algeria, Oran, or at the ports or airports. There are even young Algerians who have started to smuggle these drugs, probably in small quantities—like say 800 grams, one or 2 kilos—but this trend has spread and it is virtually a daily occurrence. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Aicha Daghar today also asked Sergeant Salah of the National Gendarmerie on the results achieved by the Gendarmerie in their fight against the smugglers.

[Begin recording] [Salah] Our activities fall in the framework of the fight against drug-trafficking, the use and growing of these drugs. We do not ignore the fact that in Algeria there are some citizens who grow these plants. The activities of the National Gendarmerie have intensified this year, as is the case every year, and the gendarmes have managed to put an end to the activities of 238 individuals, all men except for one women. This was in October alone; 184 of these people have been jailed and 54 others were released. Among those detained there are 10 foreigners who are implicated in drug-trafficking.

In the last quarter, July-August-September, the Gendarmerie units seized 70.555 kilos of Kif [Moroccan-grown variety of cannabis] 365 grams of chira [Moroccan-grown variety of marijuana], 232 plans of cannabis and various tranquilizers, sleeping-pills and some types of cigars.

In October 1989, and still in the framework of the fight against drugs, there were 34 cases in which the Gendarmerie units arrested 53 individuals, including 4 teenagers. The overall quantity of drugs seized in october was 12.657 kilos, in additon to the big surprise of which you are aware and which happened in the region of El Harrouche, in the province of Skikda, recently and in which Customs and the Gendarmerie in collaboration seized 150 kilos of drugs which were hidden in a Peugeot 504 car. So the overall quantities of drugs seized by the National Gendarmerie becomes 237.697 kilos [probably so far this year]. This will probably give us a record figure regarding the value in dinars. On the basis of the investigations carried out, it becmes apparent that this phenomenon has spread considerably in a short period of time and that the operation develops from the Moroccan-Algerian borders before spreading to the other neighboring countries in the East.

[Daghar] What is the overall value of the quantities seized so far?

[Salah] The value has not been determined yet because it is probably very high and it might exceed 40 million dinars. [end recording]

Central Bank To Receive Japanese Loan

LD1611133989 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Algiers 16 Nov (APS)—The Algerian Central Bank yesterday in Tokyo signed an agreement with the

Japanese industrial bank for a loan of 10 billion yen—equivalent to about 70 million U.S. dollars. This loan is considered to be a special investment repayable over a 5-year period at an annual interest of 6.8 percent. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Further on Reaction To Workers' Deaths in Iraq

AL-AKHBAR Reports

JN1611164089 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 14 Nov 89 p 7

[By 'Ali Shalabi, Musa'id 'Abd-al-'Azim, and Walid Haydar]

[Excerpt] Statistics don't lie. Figures affirm that 1,595 corpses of Egyptians who died abroad have been arriving at Cairo airport since the beginning of this year. Among these bodies, 1,048 were from Iraq. The figure last year was 942. This means the daily average of bodies has amounted to 105 per month in comparison with 78 per month last year.

These figures reflect a grave phenomenon taking place in Iraq, whose exact causes or perpetrators are unknown to us. In order to explore one aspect of this painful fact—that the ages of most of the victims range from 20 to 30 years—AL-AKHBAR met with a number of returnees from Iraq, with one specific question: What is happening to the Egyptians in Iraq?

At Cairo airport, the returnees had a common answer: Regrettably, the Egyptian who dies in Iraq—whether shot dead by an unidentified assaulter, stabbed by a criminal who flees, or hit by a car upon returning from work—will find no one to ask about him, and his body will be tossed carelessly into a morgue or a hospital, until "good-hearted" Egyptians pay the expenses of sending his corpse to Cairo.

Consequently, there are thousands of other corpses which have found no "good-hearted" ones to pay the expenses of their return to Egypt. Of course, the destiny of each one of them is a grave somewhere.

The Egyptians in Iraq are subjected to many harassments and insults, although had it not been for the presence of millions of Egyptians in Iraq during the war, history would have changed completely in this region.

This is proved by a multitude of events. But it is sufficient to recall one incident that took place in Egypt among its 50 million people. The incident took place at Cairo airport a few weeks ago when an Iraqi airliner arrived from Baghdad. When the passengers disembarked, a number of them went to the passports officer to tell him in great panic that one of their fellows was held inside the plane upon the order of the plane's Iraqi pilot. The Egyptian was to be taken back to Baghdad because at an emotional moment during the flight, he uttered words against his former Iraqi employers. The passengers asked the officer to save this young man, as they knew what would happen to him if he was returned to Baghdad.

The airport security officials hastened to the plane. After a great effort, violent argument, pleading, and threats, the Iraqi pilot allowed the young Egyptian man to leave the plane for his national soil, and they allowed the plane to take off for Baghdad.

When the young man was asked about what he did aboard the plane, he detailed his tragic story. He said: I used to work at a factory from 0700 in the morning until 2300 in the evening every day throughout the week. This continued for many months. I requested overtime pay, but I wish I had not. I was led to the wall of the factory, beaten and insulted. I was ordered to face the wall and raise my hands up. Bullets poured down on the wall around me and I began to yell and beg to be released, and I said I was ready to do whatever they demanded of me. The demand was to work for 4 months without pay. I agreed immediately to save my life. Afterwards, I returned home. When the plane carried me to Cairo and when I became close to my homeland, I felt strong and secure, and I could not help myself from uttering curses and calling names.

This story and many others are available at the files of the Egyptian security organs.

Therefore, AL-AKHBAR met with a number of returnees from Iraq at Cairo airport. We talked to them, and in their stories there were many tragedies.

Jum'ah 'Abd-al-'Azim Junaydi, a farmer from al-Qalyubiyah, spent more than 6 years in Iraq, during which he had many jobs and participated in the war like other Egyptians, who were major pillars during the war. He said: When the war ended, they turned their backs on us and shouted to our faces: What are you waiting for in our country? This, as though we had become a burden after all we have done for them. Henceforth, we began to be treated as worthless pariahs. He says the unemployed young Iraqi men took advantage of this and began robbing Egyptians. They stop Egyptians at night and take everything from them—money, gold, watches—under the threat of arms. If the Egyptian objected, he would be killed in cold blood. Many incidents like these take place. The only measure taken by the authorities is to send the body to Cairo or put it in a morgue. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Ambassador Comments

JN1611210989 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Nov 89 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has received Egypt's ambassador to Iraq, who submitted a detailed report on the situation of Egyptian workers in Iraq and on measures that have been taken in the two countries to pay their remittances.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi Ambassador in Cairo Nabil Najm has said that a new decision has been made in Baghdad regarding these remittances, and that this decision is retroactive from the beginning of last month. The decision allows a monthly remittance of 10 dinars ($33) for ordinary workers, and 30-40 dinars for official and technical workers over a period of 3 years.

The ambassador stressed that it is not only the Egyptian workers who will be affected by these measures, but also all foreign workers, especially after the aid the Gulf states used to extend during the war has ceased, and in light of the debts that accumulated throughout the years of war.

He said that Iraq cares for the spirit of relations binding the Egyptians and Iraqis, whose blood was spilled in Sinai and al-Faw. He affirmed that the Iraqi security officer who took action against one of the Egyptians who staged a strike was interrogated immediately and imprisoned, and that a decision has been made to compensate the family of the deceased Egyptian.

Minister Cited on Issue

NC1611064489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 16 Nov 89

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH today headlines a statement by 'Asim 'Abd-al-Haq Salih, minister of manpower and training, to the effect that President Husni Mubarak is examining thoroughly the issue of Egyptians working in Iraq. The minister said the issue is being taken care of and that the situation of all Egyptians working in Iraq is completely encouraging.

The paper adds that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn met yesterday with representatives of Egyptians working in all state-run and government sectors in Iraq to learn about their situation and conditions.

Iraq's Ramadan Comments

NC1611151789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1149 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (MENA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and first deputy prime minister, has denounced attempts to harm Egyptian-Iraqi relations, saying that these attempts will not interfere with cooperation between the two countries, the good relationship between Presidents Saddam Husayn and Muhammad Husni Mubarak, or the performance of the Arab Cooperation Council. Ramadan said this today in an interview with a MENA correspondent in Baghdad in connection with the issue of Egyptians working in Iraq.

Ramadan made reference to remarks by President Saddam Husayn at his meeting with the Egyptians living in Iraq. Saddam's remarks, Ramadan said, were the best expression of the deep love, friendship, and fraternity between the presidents, governments, and peoples of the two countries. Ramadan also denied that any wide-scale layoffs of Egyptian workers have taken place.

Commenting on the conditions under which pay to Egyptian workers was reduced, causing many of them to leave Iraq, Ramadan said that the decision to restrict remittances was made last July and put into effect last October. He said this decision will be effective only 3 years, noting that specifying a certain period of time was not a common feature accompanying this type of decision. The decision, he asserted, was motivated by financial reasons.

The brothers in Egypt, Ramadan said, know well that we are falling behind on some of our financial obligations. The decision was limited to 3 years to stress that it is a temporary, not a permanent measure. It is a decision related to certain economic conditions, and any improvement in our economic situation will be examined in its light. [sentence as received]

Certainly, some of the Egyptian workers have left and others will leave Iraq as a result of the reduction of remittances, the Iraqi official said. Many Arab workers currently in Iraq have little work to do, and it is possible, under the circumsntances, that they would be useful in their own countries, Ramadan stated.

There is an economic situation that led to the issuance of the decision limiting worker remittances. But apart from that economic situation, Ramadan said, Iraq is not withholding its hospitality even to hundreds of thousands of unemployed workers. Iraq is their home for as long as they want to stay. Iraq welcomes the Arab brothers and the Egyptian brothers in particular. We are not asking anyone to leave Iraq, Ramadan stated.

In conclusion, Ramadan said that the decision to reduce workers' remittances was not an easy one for Iraqi officials. This decision was discussed repeatedly—not only by the cabinet, but at higher and lower levels so as to assess it carefully, particularly that the larger part of workers affected by it is Egyptian.

Iraqi Trade, Finance Minister Cited

NC1611222789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—Muhammad Mahdi Salih, Iraqi minister of trade and finance, arrived in Cairo tonight on an official visit to attend the meeting of the joint Egyptian-Iraqi committee scheduled to begin tomorrow.

Upon his arrival, the Iraqi minister said that the committee will discuss all aspects of economic, trade, and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Asked about the condition of Egyptian workers in Iraq, the Iraqi minister said that the Iraqi leadership's stand toward the Egyptian brothers is strong. No change has occurred in this stand, which has become even deeper.

Any negative concepts that some might have regarding the brotherly Egyptian workers in Iraq must be removed.

He said: I have brought with me a recording of the meeting between President Saddam Husayn and the brotherly Egyptian workers in Iraq yesterday. At this meeting President Saddam Husayn stressed the depth and strength of the Iraqi-Egyptian relations and Iraq's great appreciation of the Egyptian brothers.

Answering a question on the currency remittances by Egyptians working in Iraq, the Iraqi minister said that this subject will be tackled during the meeting of joint higher committee. He explained that today good amounts were paid to Egyptian workers. He said: In my capacity as finance minister, I made these remittances today before my arrival here.

Answering a question on the death of some of Egyptian workers, he said: This is a fabrication. Death occurs not only for Egyptians but also for Iraqis. We have a high rate of traffic accidents causing more deaths than the martyrs on the Iraqi front during wartime. Statistics show that we have 10,000 traffic accidents annually.

The Iraqi minister said: We have official statistics of deaths. If someone tries to compare the deaths of Egyptians in Iraq with the deaths of Iraqis, while taking into consideration the number of Egyptians living in Iraq in relation to the Iraqi population, he will see that this a natural and normal death rate. Like any other country, deaths in Iraq result from quarrels and robberies.

Concluding, the Iraqi minister said that Egyptian-Iraqi relations are strong and that Egypt is the heart of Arabism and is very important for Iraq. There is a constant and comprehensive cooperation between Egypt and Iraq in all fields.

The Iraqi official was received by Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade; Egyptian Ambassador in Baghdad Ibrahim 'Awf; and Iraqi Ambassador in Cairo Nabil Najm.

Industrial Cooperation Accord Signed With Libya

NC1711071289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—A protocol on industrial and technical cooperation between Egypt and Libya was signed at the Ministry of Industry tonight. Ahmad Salih al-Wakil, first under secretary of the Ministry of Industry signed for Egypt and Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jawad Haqiq signed for Libya.

The protocol provides for cooperation in the fields of engineering, food, chemical, textile, thermal, and mineral industries and for the trade exchange of industrial products.

The protocol was signed after the two sides reviewed the prospects for industrial cooperation and integration between the two countries.

The two sides, for example, agreed that the Egyptian Industry Ministry will supply Libya with its needs refrigerator component needs. They also agreed on integration of electronic industries and in the field of manufacturing transport vehicles, trailers, tractors, and spare parts.

In the field of food industries, the two sides agreed to cooperate in the production of fodder, dairy products, and canned food. In the field of chemical industries, they agreed to coordinate, study joint projects, and exchange expertise.

In the field of yarns and textiles, it was agreed that Egypt will supply Libya with its requirements of cotton and mixed yarns and of raw clothing materials.

In the field of cooperation in mineral industries, it was agreed that the Egyptian Ministry of Industry will provide Libya with its requirements for steel pipes. Libya will supply Egypt with its requirements for aluminium pipes and galvanized steel pipes. The two sides will cooperate in the manufacturing of iron and steel. The Libyan side will be supplied with experts and trainers in this field. The two sides agreed to set up a joint project to produce metal sheets for canning food products.

Regarding industrial and technical cooperation, the two sides reviewed the prospects for cooperation in the field of technical aid and training. The Egyptian Industry Ministry expressed its readiness to meet all the requirements of the Libyan side for experts and trainers in the industrial and technical fields.

The two sides agreed on trade exchange of industrial products and on giving priority to importing raw materials and industrial production components from each other.

The two sides agreed to form a follow-up committee that will meet alternately in the two countries.

The Libyan delegation arrived in Cairo on Saturday and is expected to leave tomorrow.

Health Minister Returns From Visit to Libya

NC1611205789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2022 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—Minister of Health Dr Raghib Duwaydar returned to Cairo tonight after a 2-day visit to Libya.

On his return, Dr Duwaydar said that the visit had been made at the invitation of the Libyan secretary of the people's committee for health. He added that during the visit it was agreed to treat Libyan citizens in Egyptian hospitals, export Egyptian pharmaceutical products to Libya, and send Egyptian doctors and nurses to Libya.

Dr Duwaydar said that it was also agreed to assist Libya in boosting medical industries and to export Egyptian vaccines and serums to Libya.

He explained that a Libyan medical delegation will visit Cairo in December to complete the talks, adding that he had invited the secretary of the people's committee for health to visit Egypt in January.

Concluding, Dr Duwaydar said that it was agreed that Egyptian drugs registered in Egypt will automatically also be registered in Libya. Moreover, the organization in charge of controlling Egyptian medical research will assist Libyan health authorities in controlling drugs manufactured in Libya.

Foreign Minister Meets Sudan's Interior Minister

EA1011082789 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Staff Brigadier Faysal Abu-Salih, member of the Revolution Command Council, interior minister, and leader of the delegation of the national peace dialogue conference currently visiting Egypt, today met Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

In a statement made in Cairo, Brig Abu-Salih praised Egypt and the wide scope of its foreign relations. He said that Egypt's chairmanship of the OAU meant it was able to provide Sudan with all forms of assistance in explaining the latter's point of view to the African brothers. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, meanwhile, declared that Egypt would persevere in making contacts with relevant quarters in order to bring security and stability to Sudan.

The chairman and members of the delegation from the national peace dialogue conference also met Dr Butrus Ghali, the minister of state for foreign affairs, with whom they discussed the latest developments in Sudan and Egypt's potential role, in the African arena, in bringing about peace in the country and solving the southern problem.

Contacts With Ethiopia, Kenya on Sudan Planned

EA1011142289 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1754 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (SUNA)—The Arab Republic of Egypt today confirmed its support for the peace efforts in Sudan. The Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister said, when he received Staff Brigadier Faysal Abu-Salih, member of the Revolution Command Council and interior minister, and his delegation, that Egypt would make contact with Ethiopia and Kenya to establish how they could participate in solving the problem of southern Sudan. The Egyptian foreign minister said there was international interest in (?conflicts) in the African continent, particularly Sudan. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid went on to say that Egypt was in contact with Ethiopia and other quarters, trying to find out how to contain the problem of southern Sudan.

In a statement to SUNA, Brig Faysal Abu-Salih said he had asked the Egyptian foreign minister to arrange a meeting of delegations from the government and the rebel movement in Cairo. He confirmed the National Salvation Revolution's adherence to dialogue as a means of rapidly achieving peace. Brig Faysal Abu Salih added that Sudan hoped that in its diplomatic moves Egypt would act to promote the peace process in Sudan by contacting all parties concerned. He said he had found the officials in Egypt responsive to this suggestion.

The delegation met Dr Butrus Ghali, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs. The delegation from the dialogue conference led by Brig Faysal Abu-Salih stressed the need for coordination and consultation between the Sudanese and Egyptian diplomats in promoting peace efforts at both the continental and international level. Dr Butrus Ghali stressed to the delegation that Egypt would apply all the resources at its disposal to help Sudan achieve peace, in the context of the special relationship between the two countries and Egypt's influential role in holding the chairmanship of the OAU. It is recalled that the national dialogue delegation arrived in Cairo on an official visit to explain the salvation revolution's orientation towards (?events).

Sudanese Minister Discusses Media Cooperation

NC1111175789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif met with Sudanese Information and Culture Minister 'Ali Shummu this afternoon. They discussed ways of expanding cooperation between the various media in both countries, particularly in the sphere of radio, television, and news agencies.

The two ministers agreed to use all possible means to develop the Nile Valley Radio in a way that will produce integrated Egyptian-Sudanese broadcast material for this station.

They also agreed to expand media training for Sudanese personnel in Egypt and Egyptian personnel in Sudan.

The two information ministers decided to embark on an integrated engineering and technical study with the objective of best utilizing Arabsat services.

Ghanian Foreign Affairs Secretary Meets Mubarak

NC1611102089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0924 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received a message from Ghanian President Jerry Rawlings concerning bilateral relations. This was stated by Obed Asamoah, Ghanian secretary of foreign affairs, after he met with President Mubarak. The Ghanian official added that the message also deals with ways to strengthen ties between African countries and enhance economic cooperation between Third World countries.

Departs Cairo After Visit

NC1711105389 Cairo MENA in English 0911 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, Nov 17 (MENA)—Ghana's Secretary of Foreign Affairs Obed Asamoah left here this morning at the end of a 4-day official visit to Egypt during which he delivered a message from President Jerry Rawlings of Ghana to President Husni Mubarak on means of fostering bilateral relations. He also headed his Country's delegation to the meetings of the first session of the Egyptian-Ghanaian joint committee. The Egyptian side was headed by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali.

DPRK's Chief of Staff Ends Visit 10 Nov

NC1011183889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—General Choe Kwang, chief of staff of the DPRK People's Army, left Cairo this afternoon at the end of an official 4-day visit to Egypt.

The Korean guest was seen off at the airport by Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces.

PLO's Al-Surani Leaves for Tunisia

NC1111102089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0932 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani left Cairo for Tunis early this morning after a visit of several hours.

Al-Surani arrived in Cairo yesterday afternoon as an envoy of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian leadership.

He met last night with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and handed him a number of Palestinian queries to be conveyed to the U.S. Administration. The queries deal with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan, and the answers will help finalize the Palestinian stand on the plan.

According to Palestinian sources in Cairo, Al-Surani will brief the Palestinian leadership in Tunis on his meeting yesterday with Dr 'Abd-al-Majid and Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs.

ACC Secretary General Nammar Leaves for Jordan

NC1011075389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0702 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Dr Hilmi Nammar, secretary general of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], left Cairo this morning for Amman, ACC secretariat headquarters.

Dr Nammar arrived in Cairo last Tuesday to attend the Egyptian People's Assembly sessions. He was elected chairman of the plan and budget committee of the People's Assembly.

Socialist International Official Begins Visit

NC1111063489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—(Lewis Iyala), new secretary of the Socialist International, arrived in Cairo early this morning for a 2-day visit to Egypt.

Upon arrival, he said he will hold talks with leaders of the National Democratic Party, which has attained full membership in the Socialist International Organization. He added he will exchange views with them on future activities of the world's socialist parties and on matters of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

OAU Secretary General Meets With Mubarak

NC1611103089 Cairo MENA in English 0932 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, Nov 16 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received this morning Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Salem Ahmed Salem. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali attended the meeting. Salem had arrived here on Tuesday.

Mubarak Receives Jordanian Information Minister

NC1611135089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received Nasuh al- Majali, Jordanian minister of information and culture, in the presidential office. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif attended.

The Jordanian minister stated he had conveyed to President Mubarak greetings from the Jordanian king, government, and people. He also briefed the president on the outcome of his talks with Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif on the latest developments in the Palestinian issue and the recent elections in Jordan.

President Mubarak entrusted the Jordanian minister with greetings for King Husayn on the occasion of his birthday, the Jordanian elections, and the beginning of the new parliamentary phase.

Ghali Welcomes Opening of German Border

NC1111135789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Egypt has welcomed the opening of the border between East and West Germany. This came in a statement by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, who said that the decision to open the border

between the two states emphasizes and bolsters international detente and general peace and stability in the world, particularly in Europe. He declared that Egypt hopes this new detente will not be at the expense of Third World causes, notably the Palestinians people's rights.

UK's Waldegrave Interviewed on Current Issues

NC1511173089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—William Waldegrave, British minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, is convinced that circumstances are now available to start an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue based on U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan and the Egyptian 10 points concerning the issue of elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR magazine, Waldegrave said: We hope that the Israeli and Palestinian sides will start the dialogue with Egypt's assistance, advice, and conciliatory role in view of its ties with both sides. He pointed to the role being played by the United States and other sides, including Britain, in consolidating the points of agreement between Israel and the Palestinians and in helping work out the dialogue's framework which would greatly help the two sides meet and reach an agreement.

In his interview, which will be published in the magazine on Friday, the day after tomorrow, the British minister of state lauded Egypt's role in giving a push to the Middle East peace process. He described the 10 points proposed by Egypt with the support of the Foreign Ministry's brilliant diplomacy as a bold crucial initiative that helped revive the peace process. He noted that James Baker has (?based) his plan on these 10 points.

Waldegrave urged the Israeli Government to seize this great available peace chance and respond to the peaceful course adopted by the PLO in light of the resolutions passed by the Palestine National Council in Algiers in November last year. The British minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs urged Israel to be flexible, noting that the Palestinians have so far demonstrated adequate flexibility. He added that it would be in Israel's interest to respond to this flexibility because the Israelis and the Palestinians as well as the Arabs must live together, noting that Israel must realize that its security can not depend on force forever. Waldegrave emphasized that since the outbreak of the intifadah, the Palestinians have possessed strength and self- confidence to propose a moderate peaceful course and positive constructive steps. Waldegrave reiterated his criticisim and (?protest) of the current Israeli practices and policies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which run counter to the UN charter and international law concerning the occupied territories.

Touching on the Lebanese crisis, Waldegrave praised the Arab higher committee's efforts to solve the crisis, adding: It is good enough to see that one of the problems, which has reached the point of crisis, is being settled by its sons as a result of concerted Arab efforts and and not through the United States or the Soviet Union.

Alluding to the criticism of the al-Ta'if accord by some Lebanese aides, Waldegrave said that no one had managed to present a better accord, expressing the conviction that this accord represents the last chance to restore the sovereignty of united and stable Lebanon. In this regard, the British minister urged all the foreign forces to withdraw from Lebanon.

With regard to the developments in the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations, Waldegrave affirmed Britain's support for the UN secretary general envoy's shuttle efforts between Baghdad and Tehran in a bid to work out a peaceful formula between the two sides. He expressed the hope that the UN envoy's mission will produce positive results.

On the situation in Sudan, the British minister of state expressed the hope that the cease-fire will again be honored and that the two sides—the rebels movement under Garang and the Sudanese Government—will return to the negotiating table.

Syrians 'Praise' Agricultural Development

NC1611115689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—A delegation from the Syrian Agriculture Engineers Union [SAEU] led by Eng Yahya Bakkur has praised President Husni Mubarak for his great efforts regarding agricultural development in Egypt. The delegation also hailed the promulgation of the new agriculturists union law as a substantial service to all agriculturists and a tribute to Arab agriculturists.

A joint statement was issued today by a delegation from the Egyptian Agricultural Engineers Union led by Eng Sa'd Hajras and the visiting SAEU delegation. In this statement, the two delegations said they look forward to a meeting between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad to lay down a comprehensive plan for the future stage, which aims to promote the happiness of citizens and the stature of the Arab world, as well as the ties of cordiality and amity between the Egyptian and Syrian peoples.

The delegations said that their meeting was a good start toward formulating a full and comprehensive framework to further ties between the two countries and coordinate their plans and programs with regard to the promotion of agricultural development and expertise. [passage omitted]

The Syrian delegation left Cairo early this morning following a visit of a few days, during which it met with Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, speaker of the Consultative Concil; Dr Yusuf Wali, secretary general of the National Democratic Party, who also is deputy prime minister

and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; as well as leading agriculture experts in the country.

Badr on Security Cooperation, Emergency Law

NC1011094589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0829 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Nov (MENA)—Zaki Badr, Egyptian interior minister, disclosed that his current tour of a number of Arab Gulf states aims to achieve further cooperation and to lay groundwork for more coordination in combating crime and preserving pan-Arab security.

At a news conference during his current visit to Kuwait, he said that Egypt and Kuwait are working together, proceeding from their joint security. He pointed out that his talks with Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah have resulted in the formation of Egyptian-Kuwaiti security committees for joint cooperation to fight drug smuggling, international terrorism, and counterfeiting, as well as crimes against the two countries' national economies.

He paid tribute to the high performance of Kuwaiti graduates of Egyptian police academies and noted that on directives by President Mubarak, the academies are open to students from fraternal Arab and friendly African countries.

He welcomed the convocation of the Arab interior ministers conference in Cairo next month and stressed the importance of Arab cooperation to fight crime under the Arab League umbrella.

The interior minister pointed out the emergency law in Egypt mainly is directed against dangerous extremists, drug and currency trade, and those who tamper with the people's livelihood.

He denied that the emergency law has been applied to any opinionated person or party member. He affirmed that the application of this law is subject to rules and regulations. He said there are committees at the security directorates which discuss implementation of arrest orders and whose recommendations are submitted to a higher committee, after which the matter is referred to the interior minister personally.

He said people who say the emergency law has a negative effect on investment as hollow seek to evade the laws and wreak havoc.

Badr stressed that the Egyptian people reject one-upmanship. They know that a political leadership backed by a devoted security apparatus is best for them and their well-being.

He also emphasized that Egypt is enjoying security, economic, and democratic stability.

Officer Introduces Mortar Fire-Control System

NC1011101689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0912 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—An Armed Forces officer has introduced a new computerized system for fire control to be used with the 120-mm mortar. It will save time by providing required data in 10 seconds.

MENA's military editor learned that the Armed Forces have asked a military factory to produce this new system, called Basil, and that infantry headquarters will introduce this computerized system to the 12-mm mortar companies in the infantry formations because of its unique characteristics.

The new system can store data for about 50 targets in a 10,000 square-km area. It warns the operator if a shell other than those in the data is selected or if the target is beyond range. It also provides full support for friendly forces by warning them if hitting the target is dangerous.

Chief Editor of AL-AHALI Resigns

JN1111125689 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 8 Nov 89 p 1

[Excerpt] The general secretariat [of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping] decided on Saturday [4 November] to accept the resignation of Mahmud al-Muraghi as chief editor of AL-AHALI, and has announced the following decision: After the members of the general secretariat voiced their unanimous rejection of the resignation tendered by colleague Mahmud al-Muraghi, but in view of his insistence on resigning, it has been decided to accept the resignation of colleague Mahmud al-Muraghi from his post as chief editor of Al-AHALI and to thank him for his efforts. The general secretariat charges colleague Lutfi Wakid, NPUG assistant secretary general and chairman of the board and managing editor of AL-AHALI, with full editorial responsibility. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Comments on South, Islamic Law

JN1611102889 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 14 Nov 89 p 17

[Interview with Lieutenant 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, by Fahmi Huwaydi; date, place not given; passages within single parentheses are comments made by the interviewer]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Huwaydi] Where do you place the issue of democracy in Sudan's current list of priorities?

[Al-Bashir] Democracy is not a problem; it is a way to solve a problem. If I say that the war in the south is Sudan's first problem, and the economic crisis is its

second, this does not mean that democracy is not among the top priorities. We think that without democracy, we will not be able to solve either problem.

[Huwaydi] Do you think that the national dialogue conference has solved the problem of the south?

[Al-Bashir] The problem of the south is too complicated to be solved by a dialogue conference. I contend that in this issue, many regional and international interests have come into interplay. It is enough for you to know, for example, that the "outlaws" receive their military training in camps in four countries—Ethiopia, Cuba, East Germany, and Nicaragua. (I met a lieutenant from the south who fought with Garang's forces and gave himself up with others to the government after the dialogue conference. His name was Eqwayr Burj. He told me he had a 2-month training course in an Arab country after returning from Cuba in 1985.)

The most important achievement of the national dialogue conference, continues Al-Bashir, is that it arrived at a full vision of a solution—a vision enjoying the consensus of the Sudanese nation, especially the northerners and the southerners. This has been unprecedented in Sudan since independence.

(I have read the recommendations of the conference, in which the south was represented by 40 pecent of the conference. The conference comprised the most prominent Sudanese politicians and experts and continued for 6 full weeks.)

[Huwaydi] Have the recommendations settled the controversy over the application of the shari'a and the September laws?

[Al-Bashir] This controversy is exaggerated, indeed fabricated. I frankly said to those who urged us to go back on the shari'a that before us there were two governments in the country—a transitional government and an elected government—and neither took such a step. Although the head of the elected government promised to cancel the shari'a, he could not do it. Why are we asked to take such a step?

All parties to the dialogue conference agreed about full equality among citizens and on the need to respect all religions and ideologies in the country. They acknowledged the right of the Muslim majority to follow its religion in the various aspects of life without harming the rights of others. Having arrived at a formula to rule the country—a federal system—they decided that every region can exclude itself from the legislations that have a religious nature. I think anyone who believes in democracy cannot disagree with this approach.

In addition to this, the conference added tradition to shari'a as the main sources of legislation; such an addition had been cancelled in the past.

Although the recommendations on the relationship between religion and the state were important, it is unjust and unfair to evaluate the dialogue conference only from this perspective. The recommendations on the political system, identity, wealth distribution, and authority better explain the nature of the big achievement.

[Huwaydi] Some say you have started from square one in your tackling of the southern Sudanese problem, and that you have not continued from where others left off.

[Al-Bashir] If what is meant is the so-called 16 September agreement, it was not a peace agreement between the Sudanese Government and the rebels, or the outlaws. It consisted of conditions set by Garang and his group that were approved by the Democratic Unionist Party. This agreement contains humiliating conditions which no self-respecting government can accept. Therefore, it was only natural for us to bypass it, and it is not true that we ignored it. All the documents pertaining to southern Sudan's problem, whether past or present, have been placed at the disposal of the dialogue conference, which assessed them and benefited from them.

[Huwaydi] What reaction do you expect from the other side?

[Al-Bashir] From the beginning we formed the conviction that Garang and those with him are not seriously seeking peace, as they have no interest in attaining it. This was evident in the first meeting that took place between a delegation from the revolution command and one from the rebels in Addis Ababa. This is because their delegation was formed from secessionists and others who are known for their ideological chauvinism. Also, when we invited them to the dialogue conference, they boycotted it. Some brothers from the south attended the conference and explained their viewpoint. During the first days of the conference, their radio incessantly urged the southerners to withdraw from the conference, and wagered on its failure. However, the southerners were more mature, showed a higher sense of responsibility, and were more sincere in their serious endeavors to settle the problem.

From the political standpoint, the recommendations of the conference and the consensus on them have divested them of their pretexts and cards. That's why we are not surprised they are resorting to military pressure and the violation of the cease-fire agreement. Of course, we will not remain silent on this state of affairs.

[Huwaydi] Does this mean the possibilty of resuming the war?

[Al-Bashir] The daily cost of the war is around 11 million Sudanese pounds. It is having very destructive effects on southern Sudan. We are determined to seek and are confident we will attain this objective. This does not mean, however, that the Armed Forces will be disbanded, or that the war option will be dropped. If the last option is imposed on us, we will go back to the people, who will decide.

[Huwaydi] Is southern Sudan's secession a likely possibility?

[Al-Bashir] Not for us and for the southerners who participated in the dialogue conference. Not one of them ever mentioned such a possibility.

[Huwaydi] What is the nature of relations between Khartoum and Addis Ababa?

[Al-Bashir] There is quite an understanding. Everybody knows that the smoke from any fire ignited in Addis Ababa will drift to Khartoum. Ethiopia has had a role to play in the Addis Ababa conference, during which we met with Grang's delegation. We played a role in arranging for the Atlanta meeting in the United States between the Eritreans and the Ethiopians.

[Huwaydi] What about relations between Khartoum and Cairo?

[Al-Bashir] The close cooperation between our two countries is a strategic stand and is above any other consideration. The trade agreement we recently signed with Cairo is witness to the soundness of these relations. This agreement totalled $325 million, a 43 percent increase over the last agreement between the two countries. It is the most important and largest trade agreement Sudan has ever signed. Egypt also is our partner in the peace efforts, and President Mubarak's chairmanship of the Organization of African Unity enhances these efforts and gives them a special meaning.

[Huwaydi] What about the relations between Khartoum and Tripoli?

[Al-Bashir] They are also good and intimate. We are very eager to maintain open and strong bridges with our brothers and neighbors, especially Libya and Saudi Arabia.

[Huwaydi] The first statements issued by the revolution pointed out Sudan's readiness to join existing Arab groups. Has any progress been made in this respect?

[Al-Bashir] There are things that need time to become mature. We have been thinking that it is in the interest of Sudan to join Egypt and Libya in what might be a strong and natural economic axis linking two Arab groupings—"the Maghreb union and the quadripartite council". At the same time, we are seeking to establish some link with Saudi Arabia through a joint committee, and this may help build another bridge between us and the third Arab group—"the Gulf Cooperation Council". If this is achieved, Sudan will have a special relationship with the three existing Arab groups.

These ideas are on the table, and we are trying to materialize them through consultations with our brothers. But it perhaps is not useful to hasten this.

[Huwaydi] How do you explain the confusion regarding former President Ja'far Numayri's position on the revolution officers?

[Al-Bashir] I think this confusion has ended now; what Numayri says or does holds no weight as far as we and the Sudanese people are concerned. We have passed this stage.

[Huwaydi] How do you react to reports that you are related to the Islamic Front?

[Al-Bashir] Our opponents found nothing to accuse us of except the question of our affiliation to the front. This accusation will continue until they find something else of which to accuse us. We understand the motives of those who insist we are associated with the front. By squeezing the revolution in such a narrow position and claiming it reflects the views of the front and not the ambitions of the entire Sudanese public, they, at home, want to besiege and isolate us from political and media points of view. Abroad, they want to affect our Arab relations, sabotage our relations with neighboring African states, and incite the west against the revolution.

We realize these aims, and so do people around us. I think that 4 months after the revolution—a period over which we have built a good asset of confidence and credibility in which we take pride—we have superceded the position of defense concerning this issue.

[Huwaydi] Are you optimistic about Arab assistance to Sudan?

[Al-Bashir] Our first concern is that Sudan should depend on itself, and we are confident this is possible. This is the obsession that prompted us to call for convening of the major economic conference, which opened in Khartoum at the beginning of this month. If we manage to unleash the wasted and suppressed Sudanese capabilities, we will not have fears about the future.

[Huwaydi] Thank you, Mr Chairman.

[Al-Bashir] My regards to the brothers in the north.

SPLA on Al-Bashir Diplomatic Campaign

EA1511214089 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Compatriots, SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] combatants in the field, greetings to you all in the name of our revolutionary armed struggle and welcome to this week's edition of your program "With the Battalions."

Comrades in struggle, the leader of the junta, 'Umar al-Bashir, has now embarked on a diplomatic and military campaign against the SPLA abroad. Ashamed of his unprovoked attacks on the SPLA which cost him the fall of five garrisons in Blue Nile Province, 'Umar al-Bashir has now gone abroad to beg for more arms and to portray the SPLA to his foreign backers as a warmonger. The leader of the junta is behaving like a stubborn small child who insults a big man and when lashed he began to cry loudly for help. Who will help such a notorious boy?

Like a small boy, 'Umar al-Bashir orders his fighter planes to bomb civilian targets in the SPLA-held towns and when blamed, he denied that he has ordered the bombing and instead ordered the indefinite suspension of relief flights to southern Sudan. Does 'Umar al-Bashir suspect the relief planes to have bombed the SPLA towns, or what does 'Umar's little brain think?

More absurd still was the claim by 'Umar al-Bashir's henchman, Colonel Martin Malwal, that the SPLA bombed its own towns. Col Malwal is sick. He must be taken to a mental hospital. [passage omitted]

According to our intelligence sources, the air raids on Yirol and Waat were ordered by 'Umar al-Bashir's deputy chief of staff for operations, a diehard of the National Islamic Front fundamentalists.

In fact 'Umar's war plans are no secret. He began his warmongering immediately after he assumed power. His first announcement that he had nothing to do with any peace agreement concluded between the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] and the political parties was enough to justify that 'Umar al-Bashir was in fact a man for war, not for peace.

'Umar al-Bashir's second statement, repeated by his delegation that met with the SPLM/SPLA delegation in Addis Ababa last August, that they came to solve the so-called southern problem was equally provocative and an insult to the movement, because the SPLM/SPLA is not fighting for southern Sudan but for restructuring of power in Khartoum. This assertion by 'Umar al-Bashir and his group that they came to solve the southern problem was also a sign that 'Umar al-Bashir's group had gone to Addis Ababa to insult the SPLA and to declare war. But the SPLA was patient enough as it is an army for peace and greater democracy.

The third step of 'Umar al-Bashir towards war was the formation of his consultative committee, otherwise alleged to be a national peace conference. In that conference one of Mr 'Umar's appointees, a stooge, suggested that the SPLA be disarmed. If this was a genuine peace conference, how could it talk of disarming the SPLA? What other method could the junta use for disarming the SPLA other than the war method?

Above all, how could the junta leave the SPLA out if the committee to that conference was not really a preparatory as well as an advisory committee to the junta as to how best the junta should fight the SPLA? To cover up his warmongering the leader of the junta, Brig 'Umar al-Bashir, went on extending his unilateral cease-fire to buy time to enable him to arm his army to launch his dry season offensive. That conference in Khartoum therefore had a hidden agenda of planning how best the junta will execute its mad war against the SPLA.

Now, satisfied with the plans drawn in that conference and the armaments he got from abroad, Brig 'Umar al-Bashir then launched his dry season offensive by ordering his troops in Damazin on 9 October 1989 to go and clear the SPLA between Damazin and Kurmuk. [passage omitted]

There is no way for 'Umar al-Bashir to escape blame. He must be held responsible for starting the war and must be condemned for the loss of innocent lives as a result of the war he has unleashed on Sudan. The Sudanese nation could by now be breathing in the air of peace had 'Umar al-Bashir not taken over the state powers through gunpoint on 30 June this year, bringing to a halt the peace process that was going on and which would have resulted in holding of the national constitutional conference last September.

The various committees that 'Umar al-Bashir has dispatched to several countries to propagate his war policies must be informed to return to Khartoum to pressure their leader to accept peace talks with the SPLA. We in the SPLA assure the Sudanese people and the world at large, time and again, that despite 'Umar al-Bashir's warmongering attitude we are committed as ever to peace. If 'Umar al-Bashir's junta responds positively to the SPLM/SPLA's peace initiative and they request to talk with us in a neutral and agreed place, we assure the Sudanese people and the world that the movement is ready to talk peace. But if 'Umar al-Bashir insists on following the path of war that he has started we will not stand with our hands akimbo. We will give him the hell of war which will be more disastrous and 'Umar al-Bashir will be held responsible for the disaster that follows.

Western Sahara

Polisario Claims 250 Moroccans Killed

LD0911141189 Algiers APS in English 1330 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] SADR (LT), 9/11/89 (APS)—"250 Moroccan soldiers were killed and more than 325 others were wounded during the important operation waged on November 8 at dawn from 5 a.m to 9.30 a.m. by the Sahrawi People's Liberation Army against the Moroccan Defence Wall in the sector of Amgala," a communique of the Sahrawi Ministry of Information and Culture announced Thursday. During this battle, the communique added, "a Moroccan Mirage F1 war plane was destroyed by the Sahrawi fighters who also made 36 prisoners out of the other Moroccan forces, including non-commissioned officers."

Algiers Reports Moroccan-Saharan Clash

LD1611235489 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Battles took place today in the Western Sahara between the forces of the Polisario Front and Moroccan forces in the region between Amgala and Gueltet Zammour. The Polisario announced launching an attack, and

Morocco confirmed that the battles took place. Details from colleague Hasiba Houcince:

[Houcine] The Polisario Front announced today an attack against the Moroccan forces in the Western Sahara. In a statement published by REUTER, the front stressed that its forces waged a victorious battle for 4 hours during which they inflicted important human and material losses on the Moroccan forces, without giving further details. This attack which is considered to be the fourth announced by the Polisario Front within 5 weeks, as stressed by the Saharan statement, was launched at the region between Amgala and Gueltet Zammour where battles caused dozens of deaths during recent weeks.

In Rabat, a statement by the Moroccan Information Ministry stressed that battles took place today for 3 hours between the Moroccan forces and those of the Polisario Front. According to the Moroccan statement, Polisario's losses in these battles amount to 100 killed and wounded. It indicated that 37 bodies were left on the battlefield, and that important quantities of equipment were destroyed or captured. The Moroccan statement admitted that 5 Moroccans were killed and 15 wounded. Two jeeps were destroyed.

During the previous attack launched by the Polisario Front, Morocco announced the loss of 45 of its forces and 87 of the Saharan forces, while the Polisario Front announced killing 250 Moroccans during these battles.

It should be remembered that the Polisario Front had put an end in October to the truce which had been respected for a year in the Western Sahara. It resumed the fight to force Morocco to accept a peaceful solution for the Western Saharan problem.

Shamir Waiting for Arab Response to Baker Plan

TA1611181989 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Ya'ir Stern in Washington on 16 November—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Shamir] The visit was exactly what I expected. There was a friendly discussion of the state of relations and of the entire situation. There was a more detailed discussion with the secretary of state and his aides, which mainly revolved around the peace initiative. During the meeting with the President we discussed the entire array of U.S.-Israeli relations over the recent period. I would say that the meeting I had with the President was open and friendly.

[Stern] What scenario do you then foresee for the coming weeks following the talks you held yesterday on the political negotiations?

[Shamir] In the current state of affairs, first of all, no answer whatsoever has yet been delivered by the Arab side. As you know, Israel has responded to the U.S. secretary of state's five-point plan. So far, no answer has been received from Egypt—in other words, from the Arab side—and this poses a question as to what will happen later on and as to what the Arab response will finally be. I can see no problems right now as far as we are concerned. The situation is quite clear. We are willing, and even interested, to hold a meeting with a group of Palestinians with whom we could discuss the framework and modalities of elections. We refuse to talk to PLO members, and we are expecting a response. If the response is positive and if it satisfies Israel and the United States, then a meeting to discuss the first stage in the implementation of Israel's political initiative can be expected.

USSR Blocking Positive PLO Response to Baker

TA1711090789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Nov 89 pp 1, 11

[Report by Menahem Shalev and news agencies]

[Excerpts] The Soviet Union has intervened to block a positive PLO response to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point plan, and Egypt appears to be backing away from an active role in promoting Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, diplomatic sources and officials in Jerusalem said last night.

The diplomatic sources said that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze sent a message to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in which he said the Kremlin believes that Israel's peace efforts are insincere and are only aimed at excluding the PLO from the negotiating process.

In his message, Shevardnadze reportedly cited the letter sent to all foreign ministers last week by Foreign Minister Arens, stating that Israel will under no circumstances negotiate with the PLO. The PLO, Arens wrote, is playing a destructive role in the peace process.

Shevardnadze, the sources said, proposed that the Kremlin and the PLO discuss the possibility of returning to the old formula of an international conference. [passage omitted]

According to reports in Jerusalem, the U.S. is willing to ensure that outside Palestinians will be included in a Palestinian delegation to a dialogue, and that the agenda will be open for matters other than Israel's proposal for elections in the territories.

The U.S., however, is unwilling to publicly acknowledge the PLO's exclusive role in appointing the Palestinian delegation, sources here said.

According to highly reliable reports reaching Jerusalem last week before the news of the Soviet intervention, 'Arafat had decided in principle to accept Baker's plan on the assumption that he would receive appropriate U.S. assurances.

At the same time, observers in Jerusalem said last night that there are indications that Cairo has shifted its stance and is no longer willing to serve as a "screen" that aims to conceal the PLO's true role in the process.

The observers noted recent declarations by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that the PLO will decide on Baker's five points, and candid Egyptian statements in which Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has "conveyed" PLO requests for clarifications to the U.S., and the American responses back to the PLO.

According to some sources in Jerusalem, Cairo's decision to cease its active role in the process came in the wake of Baker's public statement last month that Israel, Egypt and the U.S. would "determine" the composition of the Palestinian delegation. The Secretary's statement, made immediately following the Washington meeting between President Bush and Mubarak and before Israel's rejection of Mubarak's 10-point plan, is thought to have been highly embarrassing to Cairo.

Since that time, the sources added, it appears that Cairo has decided to "take a back seat" to the PLO, and has publicly deferred all major decisions to the organization.

There was speculation in Jerusalem last night that the Soviet Union may now believe that it can play a more prominent role in the peace process than that envisioned in the U.S.-Israeli scenario for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and elections in the territories. This despite the fact that the U.S. has apparently agreed to joint superpower auspices for the dialogue. [passage omitted]

Histadrut Leader Invited to USSR in December

TA1711104189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Nov 89 p 16

[Report by Jeff Black]

[Text] Histadrut Secretary-General Yisra'el Qeysar will visit the Soviet Union next month as a guest of the Soviet trade union movement. Qeysar's spokesman said yesterday the invitation had not yet arrived in Israel, but he had been assured it had been sent following Qeysar's and the Labour Party's Histadrut election victory earlier this week.

Protest Outside U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem

TA1711094389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] A large effigy of Yasir 'Arafat covered with human skulls, knives, and guns was placed a short time ago opposite the U.S. Consulate on Agron Street in Jerusalem by the organization of families of victims of terror. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum notes that 'Arafat is seen making the sign of a V for victory with one hand and in the other hand is holding a placard reading "thank you partners," with a U.S. flag painted on top.

The organization's spokesman told our correspondent that this act, which is being staged with the approval of the Jerusalem City Council, is designed to protest the pressure exerted by the Washington Administration on Prime Minister Shamir to confer with 'Arafat and to start negotiations with the PLO. The organizers plan to leave the 15-meter effigy on the scene for several days.

Constraints Ministers Form Sub-Group of 15 MK's

TA1711054589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Likud Knesset members [MK's] who support the conditions for peace negotiations of Ministers Levi, Moda'i, and Sharon have formed a sub-group within the Likud Knesset faction. Fifteen MK's have joined the group, accounting for 40 percent of the Likud strength in the house. A Voice of Israel reporter says the group will undoubtedly constitute a force to be reckoned with in Likud politics in the Knesset.

Meridor Issues Figures on Intifadah Casualties

TA1711104589 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Nov 89 p A6

[Report by Barukh Me'iri]

[Excerpt] "There is no political guideline to not put Nusaybah and Al-Husayni on trial. If incriminating material is received, the state prosecutor will not avoid presenting indictments." This was said yesterday by Justice Minister Dan Meridor in answer to questions by students at Herzliyya High School in Tel Aviv.

The justice minister pointed out that some of the intifadah leaders have already been tried in military courts and given various sentences. In answer to a question about why the security forces do not use tougher measures in the territories, Minister Meridor replied that since the outbreak of the intifadah 2 years ago 600 Arabs have been killed in the territories, 350 houses have been demolished, over 10,000 people have been wounded, more than 40,000 have been placed under administrative detention, and 60 have been deported. Minister Meridor said that whoever believes that the intifadah is a legal problem, which can be solved through legal means, is making a grave mistake in view of the real situation. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Provisional Government Proposed

TA1711105789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Nov 89 p 16

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] Bi'r Zayt University Professor Sari Nusaybah has proposed that Palestinians form a provisional government, with ministers from the PLO executive committee and a grass-roots administration manned by thousands of Palestinians in the territories.

Nusaybah first made the proposal in Washington in an address before a conference of Arab-American university graduates. He discussed it this week with THE JERUSALEM POST.

Nusaybah proposes that Palestinians announce the formation of a provisional government, whose administration would function in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Ministers would be members of the PLO executive committee abroad, but department heads would be drawn from the territories.

The bureaucracy of the administration, according to Nusaybah, would be made up of thousands of workers in health, education, and social services in the territories, who would be declared employees of the newly-established "national authority."

"In the past two years, Palestinians have been building an infrastructure through popular committees and other institutions," Nusaybah said. "These are the walls for which a roof can be built by declaring a provisional government; it can give cohesion and organization, and exercise authority over the multiplicity of committees and institutions that have been created."

Israel could react by arresting Palestinian department heads, but these could be replaced, Nusaybah said. Arrests of thousands of employees, such as teachers and health professionals, for merely doing their work would make the authorities look "ridiculous." Alternatively, Nusaybah said, Israel could accept the new situation and arrive at a modus vivendi with the Palestinian administration.

Nusaybah conceded that the security authorities would move to block a unilateral attempt to set up such a Palestinian governing bureaucracy, but he argued that the effort would be a step forward in the process of "state-creation" in progress during the intifada.

This process should be the proper focus of Palestinian activity in the uprising, rather than escalation of violence, Nusaybah said.

U.S. Citizen Detained in Ramallah, Released

TA1611152789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] A female U.S. citizen who is a resident of Ramallah was detained yesterday during a downtown curfew. She was detained after a search of her belongings found her in possession of lists showing distributions of funds to Palestinian activists. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the subsequent search of her apartment uncovered dozens of leaflets of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PLO flags, and instigatory material of the Democratic Front. The police filed charges against the woman, and released her after her relatives guaranteed that she would return to the United States.

Curfews on Most Gaza Refugee Camps Lifted

TA1611112489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] The curfew on most of the Gaza Strip refugee camps has been lifted, but the blockade on the region continues. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports there were no special incidents in the area this morning. The search for the terrorists who perpetrated the attack 3 days ago continues and is mainly concentrated in intelligence activity. Two Gaza neighborhoods adjacent to the site of the attack are still under curfew.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today visited the Gaza Strip and talked with soldiers belonging to the battalion whose members were killed in the attack. He reiterated that searches are continuing and that the murderers will be caught. Our correspondent points out that it was decided not to change the orders on opening fire at this point and to continue to view the incidents as part of a national uprising. Nevertheless, soldiers have been instructed to show greater alertness.

Unilateral Withdrawal From Territories Opposed

TA1411114589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Nov 89 p 13

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "No to a Unilateral Withdrawal"]

[Text] The apprehension that the political process is liable to stall before it is launched has prompted proposals to withdraw from areas densely populated by Palestinians; the assumption is that this move would save us trouble and problems. The suggestion of a unilateral withdrawal, likewise the proposal to transfer-deport Palestinians from the territories, is to a great extent the result of despair. While transfer proponents wish to be rid of people, the supporters of a unilateral withdrawal want to be rid of territory because of the people in it.

Others have urged unilateral action because they do not want to negotiate with the PLO. In the event of a unilateral withdrawal, the certain result will be a Palestinian state on the evacuated territory. Negotiations, too, may lead to a Palestinian state, but in negotiations many security arrangements can be achieved.

Three main reasons argue against unilateral withdrawal under conditions prevailing today. A unilateral withdrawal would be a slap in the face to Egypt and the concepts underlying the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreements. The Egyptian concept asserts that Israel cannot be forcibly moved from the territories and, therefore, it is vital to compromise with Israel and make peace with the Jewish state in order to regain the territories that the Arabs have failed to obtain through military measures.

The rejectionist countries have been contending that the opposite is true. The Arabs would get what they want—and without any concessions, either—through military and other pressures which should be applied to Israel. By withdrawing unilaterally, we would in fact be implying that Egypt had erred and that the price for peace it paid in the Arab world was unnecessary. Unilateral withdrawal would be proof that Israel bends under pressure: either military pressure; or the pressure of terrorism, and of civil war; and under demographic and international pressure.

The Arabs would view withdrawal as an escape. We would then revert to the situation prevailing in the 1950's—except that in those days, we did not surround ourselves with barbed wire fences and mine fields. We will again be drawn into acts of retaliation, raids, and endless killing, but under different regional conditions. Will we plan another Sinai war? Will we hope that another 6-Day War will save us? And what will happen after that?

The second argument against a unilateral withdrawal is that by making this move we would be giving up our most important bargaining chips and forgoing the chance for negotiations with the Palestinians designed to end the conflict between the two nations. Those hoping for an arrangement with the Palestinians—whoever may be leading them—should, more than others, watch over their bargaining chips so that they can trade them for peace and security arrangements. If we ever reach the bargaining table, we will be weaker when we get there. Why should anyone negotiate with Israel if it can give nothing valuable in return for the peace and security it demands?

There is another reason why a simple escape from the territories is impossible. Because of the water sources,

the supporters of withdrawal from various territories must first reach an arrangement with the residents of the territories. A large part of Israel's water sources stem from the West Bank. Uncontrolled water drilling on the Samaria hills can damage the vital Yarqon-Tanninim water reservoir. Although water sources must not be a reason for staying, they should prod us to reach an arrangement for cooperation with the other party. Withdrawing unilaterally, we would jeopardize our water sources as well as waive any possible arrangement for cooperation that could avert the danger to them.

The supporters of the concept that Israel should keep the West Bank forever because of water sources find themselves in an opposite and entirely different situation when addressing the Gaza Strip, where water composition is marked by increasingly high salinity and whose sources are in the process of drying up; consequently, the Gaza Strip depends on Israel for its water supply. Those who seek to preserve Israel's dwindling water sources must remember that before long, Israel will be obliged to share its water with a million Gaza Strip residents. If we insist on remaining in the Strip, Egypt will not help us in this matter.

Despite all the above, we should not withdraw from the Gaza Strip unilaterally. Withdrawing even from a hornet's nest should be performed in the framework of an agreement. One of the chief security arguments against withdrawal from the West Bank is that the area is not sufficiently large to stop a comprehensive attack from an organized eastern front, and—mainly—from a surprise attack. No such problems exist in the Gaza Strip. It is surrounded by Israel, borders an Arab state that has signed a peace pact with us, and west of the area lies the sea, where the Israeli Navy rules supreme.

Nor does the Gaza Strip endanger Israel's water sources. No time will be wasted, for immediately after the withdrawal in the framework of an arrangement, countries such as the United States, Japan, European and Arab countries, as well as Israel, will be able to start investing in the rehabilitation and development of the Strip. Egypt will be able to help the Strip by supplying it with water from the pipe it has laid in the Sinai. The borders with Israel will be open to let in workers from the Strip. Gaza leaders and the PLO will have pledged to prevent all terrorist activities. They also will have refrained from declaring a Palestinian state for the duration of the experiment, whose chances of success are far greater than those of a unilateral withdrawal. This will be a great and important test that will last several years; if it is successful, the parties will be able to launch discussions toward a more extensive agreement.

Radio Commentator Welcomes Jordanian Elections

JN0911164689 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1440 GMT 9 Nov 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Observers might differ in their assessment of how democratic or tyrannical the monarchical regime that rules Jordan is. Further, observers might also differ in their assessment of how democratic the parliamentary elections were that took place in Jordan yesterday. Nevertheless, observers will not disagree on the fact that these elections, which were held yesterday for the first time after an interruption of 22 years, constitute a step by the Jordanian regime on the road to democracy. It is said that the 1,000-mile march always begins with the first step.

We are not here to interfer in Jordan's internal affairs. Moreover, we do not seek to analyze the results of the Jordanian elections. One more thing: We do not seek to discuss the motives that prompted King Husayn to order the holding of these elections. On the other hand, there is a good and sensible reason for believing that the step taken on the road to democracy by Jordan yesterday is a positive and blessed contribution toward the spread and consecration of the spirit of democracy throughout the Arab world, the majority of whose peoples have been ruled by sadistic or dictatorial rulers, or by rulers who seized power in military coups—both bloodless and bloody.

One might ask: What does Israel have to do with democracy in Jordan or the Arab world? The answer lies in the conviction that the prospects for achieving peace and fruitful coexistence between the Arab peoples and the Israeli people are proportionally bolstered by the strengthening and entrenchment of democratic principles and freedoms throughout the Arab world. One of the strongest principles of real democracy is that the government shall be of the people and for the people; that is, the government must, first and foremost and before anything else, strive to serve the people and their real interests. People do not disagree that peace and coexistence among peoples and religions serves their higher interests and fulfills their dearest wishes.

JPDP's Hurani Reviews Results of Election

JN1411061289 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic
12 Nov 89 p 22

[Text] Nicosia--Hani Hurani, spokesman for the Jordanian People's Democratic Party's [JPDP] leadership, has stated that the Jordanian parliamentary elections have placed Jordan in a new qualitative phase in its politics.

In an exclusive interview with AL-WATAN, he said that for the first time since October 1956, free general elections were held in Jordan that were, to a large extent, free from government influence and intervention, and that these elections brought about a new, independent Parliament.

The JPDP spokesman added that, although they were conducted under the shadow of martial law, emergency laws, and an election law not accepted by the majority of political organizations in the country, the elections have paved the way fo the participation of all political currents, parties, forces, and groups in the country. He added that these elections also paved the way for the emergence of a Parliament reflecting different colors and different ideological and political trends of society, in spite of the legal ban imposed on political groupings and parties. He added that many of these trends are now represented by a large number of representatives and their presence in Parliament is no longer symbolic or individual, as was the case with the previous Parliament.

In this regard, Hurani explained that 21 [figure as published] out of 26 candidates of the "the Muslim Brotherhood" of the Islamic Movement won seats in the Jordanian Parliament. He added: Other representatives of religious trends also won in the elections, raising the number of seats held by Islamic forces to 27. On the other hand, the national movement's forces—represented by organized parties and independent nationalistic and democratic figures—won around 15 seats, while liberals and supporters of constitutional and political reforms—represented by former ministers and deputies and professionals—won at least 10 seats.

The JPDP spokesman added that the rest of deputies in the new Parliament represent local and tribal interests, but they are not reactionary. Therefore, the new Parliament is qualified to take significant and practical steps toward serious political and economic reforms, and to deal in depth with the problem of the living conditions of the poor classes and with democracy.

Hani Hurani referred to the significance of the fall of the symbols of corruption and excessive wealth—made at the expense of the people—in the recent elections. He also referred to the significance of the entry of new blood into Parliament, and the victory of a number of candidates of the organized leftist opposition. These include Bassam Haddadin for the JPDP; 'Isa Madanat for the Jordanian Communist Party; Dhib Marji for the Jordanian wing of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Husni al-Shayyab and Muhammad Faris al-Tarawinah for the Ba'th Party currents; and Husayn Mujalli al-Rawashidah for the pan-Arab trend. A number of other independent democratic and progressive elements also entered Parliament, the most prominent of whom are Faris Sulayman al-Nabulsi, Fakhri Qa'war, and Mansur Sayf-al-Din.

Hurani added that representatives of these forces can form an important and effective bloc with moderate nationalistic elements and representatives of the enlightened religious trend, such as Layth Shubaylat and Shaykh Ya'qub Qirrish, and push for democratic changes in Jordanian politics. He also said that the various religious and sectarian opposition forces form a majority exceeding half the seats in Parliament. Therefore, there are guarantees that the executive will not automatically dominate the legislative branch.

On the uproar created by foreign media and news agencies over the Islamic forces having gained a large number of seats, Hani Hurani stated that this should not create panic or concern. Despite the large number of seats the religious forces gained, they cannot alone impose any resolution on Parliament without the other forces and currents. On the other hand, these other currents are not homogeneous. Several representatives of the religious forces are in direct contact with the popular classes, committed to defending their real day-to-day interests, and working on alleviating their suffering. Therefore, these forces will remain under the pressure and observation of the masses and will not abandon their major causes.

On the reasons why the Islamic forces won a large number of seats while the leftist forces were not as fortunate, Hurani said that the Islamic forces' gains cannot be attributed solely to the popular masses' support for the programs of these forces. He said the election of these forces mainly can be attributed to the disappointment the masses felt over the disagreements among democratic and national forces on the question of a unified, alternative national program for ending the country's crises and alleviating the suffering of the broad masses from unemployment, poverty, and inflation. The national forces entered the elections with divided and competing ranks. Their candidates entered the elections individually, which caused them to lose the people's confidence in the ability of the national forces to triumph.

On the other hand, the religious forces presented the masses with unified platforms supported by the simple slogan "Islam is the solution".

The popular masses, who have been drained by the socio-economic crisis, were seeking an alternative to the prevailing situation. When the national and democratic forces did not present unified platforms capable of winning, they did not feel confident that those forces could win. At the same time, the well-organized and united Islamic forces presented themselves to the masses as the alternative. The masses had no other option, so they supported this available and united alternative,

despite the fact that the masses' hearts and minds are behind the program of the national and democratic forces.

He concluded by saying that the national forces, despite this great handicap, won a large share of the votes, which confirms the strength and breadth of its base among the masses. However, its large number of candidates and their competing against each other led to the scattering of the votes of this base. He gave as an example the loss of the JPDP's candidate for the Ma'daba Christian seat, with a difference of 173 only votes, which he blamed on the numerous national forces candidates competing for the seat.

Islamic Brotherhood's Abu-Zant Interviewed

JN1611100089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16-17 Nov 89 p 5

["Focus on People" column by Mariam M. Shahin: "Without Malice"]

[Text] As the sun sets in the horizon, the working class neighbourhood of Hayy Nazzal becomes calmer, and quiter and assumes a totally different shape than a thriving commercial area. Only the dim lights peering out of the small windows indicate that people are not yet asleep. One house does catch the attention of all passersby. It is decorated with lights and is obviously full of people. The one-storey house was the election headquarters of a newly elected member of Parliament called Shaykh 'Abd-al-Munim Ra'fat Abu-Zant. The name may be familiar because, along with the names of other Muslim Brotherhood and "Islamic" candidates, it has been making the rounds in west Amman, as many West Ammanites were surprised about the strong showing of "Islamists" in last week's elections.

As many Jordanians began worrying whether alcohol will be forbidden except to Christians and tourists and whether the wearing of the Islamic hijab [veil] will be enforced on all Muslim Jordanian women, Shaykh 'Abd al-Munim Abu-Zant spoke to Focus on People.

Wearing an Islamic robe and an 'amamah al-shaykh (the traditional headdress of an Islamic clergyman), Abu-Zant bade his guests welcome. In the presence of six journalists, three Jordanian and three foreign, four female and two male, Abu-Zant sat down, took off his headdress and introduced himself. Since he studied at the al-Azhar University in Cairo and the University of Baghdad he preferred to speak to the journalists in Arabic, and a translation for the foreign journalists was necessary. Thus one of the Jordanian journalists made a simultaneous translation.

"My name is 'Abd-al-Munim Abu-Zant," he starts. "I was born in the city of Nabulus in 1937. I studied Islamic sharia at al-Azhar in Cairo and at the University of Baghdad where I received bachelor and masters degrees respectively. I came to Jordan after my expulsion by the Israeli authorities from Nabulus in September 1967. After having served a prison term of 21 days out of the six months I was sentenced to, the Israelis expelled me. I was thus one of the first to be expelled after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war."

His status as that of a "deportee" had already guaranteed Abu-Zant a warm welcome not only from his co-religionists but also from his compatriots, many of whom had found themselves on the East Bank of the River Jordan as a result of the 1967 war.

Abu-Zant held several teaching jobs in Jeddah and Medina in Saudi Arabia before he returned to Jordan in 1969. Upon his return he was appointed as a lecturer of Islamic thought and philosophy at the Public Security Department (PSD), a job of which he was relieved from in 1972. According to Abu-Zant, the then head of the department did not agree with his teachings! After spending another year in Jordan teaching "Islamic culture and philosophy" at the Islamic College, Abu-Zant left Jordan for Kuwait to continue working as a teacher. In 1981 he returned to Jordan again.

From 1981 until last week, the shaykh spent his time teaching at a community college, and giving private lessons and sermons during Friday prayers at mosques.

Although Abu-Zant was not allowed to preach in mosques he did so anyway. "I was forbidden to work because I was questioning laws that contradict Islam and the well-being of society," he says.

Although the Jordanian government has controlled appointments of mosque preachers and monitored their sermons since 1985, Abu-Zant seems to have slipped through these well-guided checks. And he was to pay dearly for it.

During the years in which he preached clandestinely he was arrested three times under the prime ministership of Zayd al-Rifa'i. His arrests in 1985, 1986 and 1989, Abu-Zant says, were not "justified," although he mentions that he actively criticised the al-Rifa'i government from the mosque podium.

Before he ran for Parliament Abu-Zant thus had an impressive record of, let us say, a "dissenting opinion," which he would not keep to himself no matter what. In the biggest campaign rally in Jordan, held one week before the elections, he declared to an audience of approximately 8,000 fans that "Islam is the solution." A week later 19,343 voters made him the number one winner from his working-class electorate.

Abu-Zant expressed absolute satisfaction about the outcome of the election results. He believes that the election of over 30 Islamists and Muslim Brotherhood members to the Lower House of Parliament is in accordance with the "natural flow" of Jordanian society. "The Islamic bloc won for several reasons. First, the people have confidence in the justice of Islamic thought. Second, pan-Arab and leftist parties lack strong political thought

and conviction. Third, tribalism and regionalism broke down when faced with Islamic conviction and strength," Abu-Zant asserts.

His priorities in Parliament are multifold. "The number one priority for me is to assure economical and political as well as moral support for the intifada; secondly we must attempt to put the country back 'on course'—politically, economically, educationally, socially and culturally. By that I mean individual rights and moral rights must be secured. We must do our best to secure freedom of the press, respect for human dignity and freedom of movement and speech. On the hand [as published], our society has been overwhelmed by moral delinquency which we must try to diminish."

"Furthermore, the road from economic stagnation to prosperity will only come through a self supporting economy, not one that depends on imports for its very survival," according to the Shaykh.

"As far as judicial legislation is concerned, if Islamic laws were applied then a lot of the present discrimination along ethnic, regional and even religious lines would be decreased," Abu-Zant asserted.

Considering the many social problems that come with the "opening up," often associated with Westernisation, of any society Islamists like Abu-Zant have found green pastures to feed upon. With an increase of economic and social discontent and the past failures of political experiments in the Arab World with Arab nationalism and leftist ideologies, many have turned to religion as a solution. The phenomenon cannot be considered Islamic per se because people around the world have chosen their respective state religions as a comforting route to salvation in times of despair and solitude.

Answering the unspoken questions of many among his folk, Abu-Zant says, "With the will of God and His Majesty justice will now replace tyranny in this government; class discrimination and injustice will be replaced by unity and capitulation will be replaced by peace."

In order to solve a "great part" of the foreign debt problem and recuperate some of the money Jordan needs to pay its $8 billion foreign debt, Abu-Zant believes that "legal means can be used to prosecute those responsible for the debt—which came about through illegal use of their official positions."

After justice takes its course," Abu-Zant is sure, "most of our debts will be covered."

Asked what kind of laws he would like to see introduced Abu-Zant said he was in favour of banning alcohol and making Islamic dress mandatory for all Muslim women, "If the majority doesn't agree, then let it be, but I will have done my duty as a Muslim in trying to introduce such laws."

"Islam is democratic and thus nothing can or will be enforced," he said. "I will not support the introduction of laws that insult the intelligence of my people," he added.

As the interview came to an end Abu-Zant thanked the interpreter for her honest translation. "I know you do not belong to our school of thought but you have not ridiculed us through your translation and I thank you for your honesty and absence of malice."

Writer Analyzes Parliamentary Election Results

JN1111083889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Nov 89 p 1

[Article by Walid Sa'adi: "Election Results—A First Look"]

[Text] It is obviously too early to assess the results of the Wednesday [8 November] parliamentary elections and it is going to take many days before the data that ensued from it could be fully and properly digested. The preliminary observations about the elections can still be characterised as falling with the following five features:

—One, the percentage of turnout by eligible voters was dismal and disappointing. This year preliminary indicators tell of less than 45 percent of eligible Jordanians and about 60 percent of registered voters have voted in the 1989 elections. This phenomenon, in itself, suggests that the election of 1989 was characterised by general apathy. Many reasons can be introduced to explain this phenomenon: After more than twenty years without the practising general elections on the scale of the one just concluded, the people of Jordan may have lost the "habit" of voting and their instinct to participate in such elections may also have been atrophied. It would be a safe bet therefore to conclude that the percentage of particiption in future parliamentary elections will increase considerably as a consequence of the 1989 elections.

—Second, the Islamic ticket in the elections scored results exceeding those predicted even by optimist supporters of the movement. Conservative estimates speak of control of up to 30 percent of the Lower House of Parliament by the Islamic ticket candidates. This demonstration of political strength at a scale beyond the dreams of many can be partially explained by the fact that the Muslim Brotherhood, the backbone of the Islamic ticket, was the only operational movement in the country for many decades at a time when all other political parties were abolished as far back as 1957. Still it would be simplistic to credit the strength of the Islamic ticket on that point alone. It is a fact that in Jordan as elsewhere in the Arab and Islamic countries there has been a strong return to religion out of deep conviction that the dismal state of affairs in the Arab countries cannot be rectified except through the return to Islam where answers can be found to the many ills afflicting the Arab societies. In this context one can draw a parallel between this

religious phenomenon in the Islamic World and the revival of good-old religion in many Christian societies.

—Third, none of the women candidates made it to the parliament despite the rise of political activism among them. The fact that there were several able women candidates but none have received enough votes to win a seat in the next parliament suggests that many women voters did not show up in strength at the ballot boxes, preferring to leave this traditional political role to the male population. This year's results for women candidates could propel them to take more seriously their voting rights in the future. With women constituting half of Jordan's population, surely they can be expected to perform better on future occasions when there will be contests for seats in the parliament.

—Fourth, political activism was less apparent among upper and middle class Jordanians this year. The relatively lower than average turnout by voters in the Third Electoral District, for example—which is heavily populated by upper class Jordanians—bears out this observation. Again this year's result could serve as an impetus for greater political activism by upper class Jordanians in the future.

—Fifth, the loss of seats by many traditional leaders also suggests that there is a yearning for new blood to represent the people. This phenomenon has many casualties among which are the breakdown of tribal cohesion and solidarity in support of one special candidate. During this year's elections, an unprecedented thing happened when major tribes in the Kingdom offered more than one candidate and were unable to stand by one of them. The socio-economic conditions in modern Jordan have obviously precipitated this development and if one must make projections on this score, political tribal cohesion will be further eroded in the future.

These are among the initial observations that one can make at this very early and perhaps premature time on the results of the 1989 elections. I am sure in the course of the next few weeks many political scientists will offer deeper analysis on what went right or wrong in the parliamentary elections of 1989.

Disparity Seen Between Election Choices, Needs

JN1211154789 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
11 Nov 89 pp 22, 20

["I Say a Word" column by 'Abd al-Rahim 'Umar: "After the Elections"]

[Text] Now that the waves have calmed and the election battle has abated, we can objectively discuss the elections and their results. Although I did not win in the elections, this did not dampen my feeling of joy that the elections were actually held in an atmosphere of integrity and open-mindedness manifested by all responsible departments dealing with the various aspects of this process. I also hope that the atmosphere of freedom of opinion, discussion, and presentation of diverse political opinions that has prevailed in the election process will continue, because only by following this approach can a highly mindful public opinion be built. Only in such a climate can dialogue between the ruled and the ruler be resumed. Only in such a climate can bridges of confidence, which are irreplaceable in confronting the crises facing the country at this stage, be established.

In reviewing the results of the elections, we find that the Muslim Brotherhood group won the lion's share of the parliamentary seats. We also find that a number of seats were filled by people involved in religious trends, that nationalist currents are almost absent, and that a symbolic representation of the left has been manifested with each organization winning at least one seat despite the fact that most of the candidates' electoral slogans were of a leftist nature. This proves that there are voters with leftist inclinations to whom candidates raising these slogans appeal. But where is the expression of these inclinations? What the election process does not show is that the absence of the democratic process in terms of pluralism was the reason behind the imbalance between people's inclinations and the expression of these inclinations, although no one entertains any doubts as to the integrity of the election process.

The major slogans raised by the Muslim Brotherhood Movement were not political slogans that attracted people. Those who support the movement's stand on the Afghan war, at a time when Jerusalem is still under occupation and the intifadah is still in need of all means of support, are undoubtedly few in number. Those who support the movement's view of the peace efforts and the PLO leadership are also undoubtedly few in number, and a lesser number believes seriously that this movement has the ability to face complex crises experienced by this country. Therefore, the sweeping religious feelings and the attempt to prevent anyone from separating these feelings from the ability to put forward practical solutions to political, economic, and social issues facing us, should be a topic of study. Perhaps a study of some selected samples of the ballot papers at the Interior Ministry will shed light on what has really taken place and will reveal the extent of imbalance between the election tendencies of the impoverished and backward classes and what these classes really need in their daily life.

We conclude, with total impartiality, and in light of an objective study of public tendencies as expressed through the elections, that our community needs to establish a balance in its ideological orientations so that it can deal more effectively with the current times, democratic ideas, and scientific achievements. This in turn demands a reassesment of political liberties and giving political and ideological realism the right to express itself in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. While we defend full respect for our religious beliefs, we do not think that dealing with elections from a purely religious perspective can bring to Parliament candidates other than religious people. This is not the problem of the citizen or the homeland because

religion is the relationship between a citizen and his Creator, and not between a citizen and his ruler. How can we allow a citizen to be placed before two options unrelated to each other—his relationship with his Creator on one hand, and his need for an objective scientific approach that will make him enter Parliament to deal with the modern factors able to solve his problems? Once more, we must go back to the Constitution when tackling issues of democracy, public liberties, and giving freedom to all citizens—not only to a specific group.

Elections No 'Real Mandate' for Fundamentalists

JN1211120089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Nov 89 p 4

["Sunday's Economic Pulse" column by Dr Fahed Fanek: "Economic Aspects of the Elections"]

[Text] Like every major development in the country, elections may have favourable and unfavourable economic consequences. On the negative side we can point out the new additional element of uncertainty brought about by the strong showing of the Islamic fundamentalists, against the moderate gains of the leftists. The business community is set to wait and see what new trends will be brought about, and especially the composition and nature of the coming government that would secure a comfortable vote of confidence.

On the other hand there are some worries that the newly elected members of parliament may call for more public expenditure, more subsidies, and other populist demands which, if accommodated by the government would represent a set-back to the current economic correction measures and the re-structuring and adjustment process of the economy.

On the positive side, the base of decision-making will be much broader, and the difficult decisions, which have to be taken, will be more acceptable by the people, including additional burdens or sacrifices. From now on, it is not the prime minister and, to a lesser degree the ministers, that will be responsible. We shall have more shoulders, and hopefully more minds and ideas.

Looking at the outcome of last week's elections we can identify contradicting signals about the mood of the peope. On one hand the fundamentals representing the Islamic right exceeded the wildest expectations and lined up some 28 deputies. On the other hand the left performed very well, and was able to put around 10 members in the forum. At the same time most of the symbols of the establishment, especially those who resigned their senior jobs to run for election, scored good successes and, together with the moderates, liberals, and traditionalists, can forge a reasonable majority to safeguard the continuity and stability of the economic and political system, while trying hard to make the necessary reforms from within.

The elections were a success in one way and a failure in another. It was definitely a success as a democratic step in the right direction, and in the free and neutral conduct which may embarrass some regimes all through the third world. But, in another way, it was an unfair competition as far as equal institutional opportunities were concerned.

The Islamic Brotherhood was the only legal organisation for three decades in the absence of all other parties. At one time it had full domination over the Ministry of Education, the University of Jordan, and the network of mosques across the country. The others were either individuals with limited resources and means, or small illegal parties which were given a very short period of time to present their views in the open. The vast majority of the Jordanian people were neutralised. It was no surprise that one in five citizens eligible for the elections did not register, and one in each seven registered voters did not bother to collect their voting cards, and two of each five holding cards did not vote. Citizens were under the wrong impression that they do not count. They left a well-organised minority and its allies to dominate the elections by efficiently mobilising less than 10.2 per cent of those eligible for voting.

It is my opinion that the elections held last week were an achievement we should be proud of and extract lessons from, but it was by no means a real mandate for the fundamentalists to run the country.

'Failure' of Female Candidates Reviewed

JN1511131189 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Nov 89 p 3

[Article by Suhayr 'Ubaydat, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The failure of women candidates to win a seat in the Lower House of Parliament in the Nov. 8 elections is seen by many as a strong indication that despite the many strides that women have made in Jordan's administrative life in the past two decades, they still confront a multitude of social and political barriers in their quest to have a say in the decision-making process of the Kingdom.

What added irony to the situation was the fact that women constituted almost half of the electorate which took part in last week's polling process.

"It would appear that women voters themselves did not have enough confidence in their compatriots' abilities to represent them in Parliament," commented an observer. "In all probability, the candidates were unable to get their message across to women voters. I might even speculate that most of the votes that women candidates secured came from men."

A human rights lawyer, Asma' Khadr, attributes the failure of women candidates in reaching the designated status to the absence of a "people's women organisation" with a general social context that would tackle all issues whether political, social or economic.

"What I mean is that most female candidates presented themselves as women's representatives addressing women's issues only. They should have introduced themselves as representatives of the nation at large," Khadr said.

According to Khadr, the division of the Kingdom into constituencies weakened the women candidates' chance of winning. "This made it harder for women because of the close competition this division resulted in, in addition to the fact that running for elections requires substantial amounts of money for campaigning and miscellaneous expenses which no average woman can manage independently," she said.

The argument of women's independence extends to the voters. One school of thought believes that women voters were influenced by their husbands, fathers or other family members to vote for a "family candidate."

"In our society, even if a woman is liberal and has developed a broad line of thinking, she is still heavily influenced by her husband, father, brother or even son in her voting trends," commented a women's activist, who preferred anonymity.

Jordanian women were given the right to vote in Jordan in 1974 and last week's election was the first time they sought to enter Parliament after voting in 1984 to fill vacant seats in the Lower House when parliamentary life was restored in the Kingdom after a 20-year interregnum.

The main questions raised by observers are: What was the actual trend in voting and how did the various woman candidates fare?

Let the facts and figures speak for themselves.

Mufidah Swidan, running for the Christian seat in the Irbid constituency, got the highest number of votes among the women candidates, with 3,817 votes and finishing fourth in a race of five. On the other side of the scale, Dam al-'Izz Shuraym, a candidate in the Fifth District running for one of five Muslim seats, got the lowest number with 262 votes, finishing 44th in a race of 48.

In the First District of Amman, 'A'ishah al-Khawajah, seeking one of the three Muslim seats, secured 1,176 votes, finishing 14th among 23.

The female touch was absent in the Second District, but was compensated for in the Third District with three women candidates—two Muslims and one Circassian—in a race of 55.

Janet al-Mufti, running for the Circassian seat in the district, got 2,604 votes, finishing ninth among 55. Although she lost the race, Al-Mufti says she feels her candidacy in itself was a victory.

"I do not feel that I have lost," she told the JORDAN TIMES. "My running in itself is a victory. For a woman to run for elections in Jordan for the first time is quite an achievement for all Jordanian women."

Na'ilah al-Rashdah, another Third District candidate who pursued one of three hotly contested Muslim seats, secured 1,046 votes—19th among 55.

Haifa' al-Bashir, president of the Jordanian Women's Federation, also ran in the Third District for the Muslim seat. She only got 365 votes and was placed 43.

If it was any consolation for Haifa' al-Bashir, her son 'Awni secured a seat representing al-Balqa' Governorate.

"If both of them won, it would have sounded awkward, since many of the Saltis living in Amman voted in al-Balqa' apparently for 'Awni," said a woman voter. "Personally I think most of the votes that Mrs. al-Bashir secured were from acquaintances rather than relatives who could have voted for 'Awni anyway," she said.

Tujan al-Faysal, a Fifth District candidate running for the Circassian seat who stirred a whirl of controversy a week before the elections with an "apostasy" case raised by fundamentalists, got 1,328 votes finishing 41.

"I personally did not vote for Al-Faysal; she is too liberated in her ideas which violate the traditions and religious upbringing we are accustomed to," said a female university student.

But Al-Faysal is persistent and intends to run again in the next elections. "I am not sorry that I did not win, but next time, I intend to have more solid ground to stand upon and run with a stronger back-up," said the former television presenter.

Another female candidate in the Fifth District, Jumlah al-Nahar, got 702 votes. No women ran in the Sixth or Seventh Districts. [as published]

In Irbid, 'A'idah al-Mutlaq, who served in the National Consultative council which was dissolved in 1984, got 3,459 votes with a difference of 358 votes from Mufidah Swidan.

Huda Fakhuri, a dentist from al-Balqa' got 2,978 votes and Nadya Bushnaq from al-Zarqa' got 2,602 votes, 21st among 60 candidates running for six seats (four Muslim, one Christian and one Circassian). Widad Shinnawi from Ma'an Governorate came in last among 27 candidates competing over five Muslim seats, with only 155 votes.

Last but not least, in the Seventh District (the central bedouin region), Nada al-Shar'ah who competed against 17 candidates, got 491 votes and was 17th in order.

"All in all, this has been a very positive and realistic experience," said Khadr. "We thought that women have a role equal to that of men and that she proved herself in all fields, but the fact remains that we need a long time of extensive serious group work before a woman finds her place in Parliament."

Paper Calls U.S. 'Captive' of 'Shamir's Game'

JN1711084189 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Nov 89 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Shamir's Visit to Washington: Stands Set in Advance and Predictable Results"]

[Text] It seems that the U.S. secretary of state's five-point plan for direct Palestinian-Israeli talks remains stalled because it lacks sufficient impetus to overcome Israel's fabricated obstacles.

This negative conclusion is very obvious now after a series of meetings held by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir with senior U.S. Administration and congressional officials. Shamir continues to insist on his rejectionist stand, while the Bush administration continues its familiar policy of appeasing Israel in its declared stance.

Shamir's visit, which took place under a host of appropriate circumstances for the United States to exercise calculated pressure to make Shamir budge from his rejectionism, has reached its expected end. The visit has concluded without any declared or applied stand by the U.S. Administration to make Shamir reconsider his policies—policies of which even half the members of the Israeli Government disapprove.

Thus, if the Israeli prime minister's visit to the United States ends without any results allowing for the continuation of the peace process, Baker's timid initiative will be reaching its inevitable end. Once more, another chance will be wasted, just as many other chances have been wasted because of U.S. reluctance, indecisiveness, and shortsightedness.

For the past few months, the U.S. Administration has remained captive to Yitzhaq Shamir's game to gain time. It exercised a one-sided policy based on convincing the Israeli prime minister to implement his own plan for elections in the West Bank. This resulted in the loss of an opportunity to make real progress in the faltering peace efforts and in giving Shamir sufficient time to evade public opinion pressures and thwart international unanimity about the need to convene an international conference for peace in the region.

Hence, we believe that the current situation in the region and the dead end reached by peace efforts in the Middle East have been a logical conclusion of the U.S. Administration's policy of turning a blind eye. The current situation in the region is the natural outcome of the bias and utter political blindness that have afflicted the United States' Middle East policies throughout the past decades.

3 Released 'Hostages' Arrive in Larnaca

NC1711063889 Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek 0530 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] An American woman and two West Germans who had been kidnapped in Beirut were released yesterday and have arrived in Larnaca.

The three hostages traveled in a West German Embassy car from Beirut to the port of Juniyah where they boarded a ship. The ship arrived at the port of Larnaca early this morning.

A previously unknown group calling itself the Just Revenge Organization assumed responsibility for the abduction.

Mu'awwad Addresses Army Officers 15 Nov

NC1511135689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Speech by President Rene Mu'awwad at a meeting with Lebanese Army command senior officers led by Army commander Major General Sami al-Khatib in West Beirut on 15 November—recorded]

[Text] I take it upon myself to continue strengthening this Army and the other Armed Forces, such as the gendarmerie and the public security forces, which constitute an integral unit so that they can effectively contribute to the imposition of the state authority, law, and order in Lebanon.

I hope to achieve national accord and unity. I will stand uncompromisingly against all plans for partition, cantons, and so forth. I support the unity of Lebanon's people, land, institutions, and areas. I support the national accord and peace plans in Lebanon. I also support the unity of this Army. I am confident that this oath, the military oath....[changes thought] Through you I appeal to the Lebanese soldier, I appeal to his commanders. I am confident that he will be faithful to the oath of loyalty to the homeland, to legitimacy. The Lebanese Army has not made us accustomed to it being otherwise. I am confident that the Lebanese Army will remain loyal to its tradition. It has been an example and will remain an example everywhere we live.

Lebanon needs your help, your will, and your discipline. I am sure you will not disappoint the hopes of the Lebanese people. You definitely will have an important role in the coming stage to maintain peace in Lebanon, and to help establish national cohesion in Lebanon. I think that national cohesion begins in the schools and in the Army; hence the importance of the Army and education in Lebanon. We want an army with a national cause; we want an army for everyone and that is trusted by everyone. When the army is loyal to Lebanon and to legitimacy, the army, I trust, will be for one Lebanon, one homeland, and one people.

I welcome you, and God willing, [applause] [words indistinct] the days of peace in Lebanon, the days when the suffering of the Lebanese people will end. I affirm and pledge to you that no one will be able to stand in the face of the country's interests. [applause]

Mu'awwad Congratulates Syria's Al-Asad

NC1511182889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] President Rene Mu'awwad cabled Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, thanking him for his congratulations on his election as president. He also congratulated President al-Asad on the anniversary of the corrective movement and lauded fraternal Syria's role in rescuing Lebanon from its crisis and for the liberation of south Lebanon from the Israeli occupation.

In his cable to President al-Asad, President Mu'awwad emphasized the distinguished relations between Lebanon and Syria that stem from the roots of kinship, history, and mutual interests.

Mu'awwad Responds to King Fahd's Cable

NC1511193589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] President Rene Mu'awwad has sent the following cable to King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, in response to his majesty's cable of congratulations on his election as president:

I received with pleasure your majesty's cable conveying your kind congratulations on my election as president of the Lebanese Republic. While thanking you for your noble sentiments and good wishes for Lebanon, its people, and myself personally, I am happy to express to your majesty my profound appreciation and sincere thanks for the intensive fraternal efforts you have exerted and continue to exert to bring about the success of the march of salvation, peace, and national accord in Lebanon, our homeland.

Your sponsorship, together with that of your two honorable brothers His Majesty King Hassan II and his excellency the Algerian president, has had a great effect in bringing about the success of the al-Ta'if meetings and in achieving the Lebanese national accord document, which is designed to end the bloodshed and the political crisis, establish the constitutional institutions on foundations that ensure the unity and dignity of the people, and contribute to the state's restoration of its full authority and sovereignty over the whole of Lebanese territory.

While imploring Almighty God to grant us success in achieving this march with the help of our Lebanese people and the continued support of the fraternal and friendly states and of your majesty personally, I wish you perpetual good health. I also wish the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continuous well-being, glory, and prosperity under your wise leadership.

[Signed] Your brother Rene Mu'awwad, president of the Lebanese Republic

Mu'awwad To Receive U.S. Envoy's Credentials

NC1611134089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] It has been reported that President Rene Mu'awwad will leave West Beirut for Ihdin this weekend. He will receive the credentials of U.S. Ambasador John McCarthy. McCarthy phoned Mu'awwad to inform him of the decision to present his credentials on Sunday.

A political source expected a meeting to be held on Sunday in Ihdin between President Mu'awwad, Dr Salim al-Huss, and Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah on Sunday.

'Awn Vows To Fight, Not Compromise

NC1011113389 Paris AFP in English 0945 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Beirut, Nov 10 (AFP)—Christian military leader Michel 'Awn vowed Friday that he would "fight until the end" rather than compromise on an Arab peace plan that has led to the election of a new Lebanese president.

"We will fight until the end. We will only lose after an honourable battle, rather than a mere signature," General 'Awn said in reference to the peace accord approved by Lebanese MPs.

"I don't think a compromise is possible" on the agreement, the general told Agence France-Presse in an interview, describing the peace plan as an "act of surrender" to Syria.

Gen 'Awn bitterly opposes Sunday's election of Rene Mu'awwad as president, dismissing the new head of state as "simply a former MP" and rejecting his appointment because of its links to the overall Arab peace plan.

The general, who heads a contested all-Christian government, has denounced the plan for its failure to include a timetable for the complete withdrawal of some 35,000 Syrian troops stationed over two-thirds of Lebanon.

"We prefer death to surrender," said the general, who in March launched a "war of liberation" against Syrian forces in Lebanon that cost more than 1,000 lives before an Arab ceasefire took effect in September.

"The Lebanese aspire to peace, but not surrender. Those who are not with us can go to regions occupied by the Syrians and run by Mr Mu'awwad. Nobody is forced to stay here" in the Christian-held territory, he said.

Mr Mu'awwad, also a Maronite Christian, has set up headquarters in Syrian-controlled, mainly Muslim West Beirut, while Gen 'Awn has his offices at the presidential palace in the Christian suburb of Baabda.

The general said he would not consider going into exile. "How can people imagine such a thing. Traitors or war criminals can be sent into exile, but not someone who is fighting a liberation war and is loved by his people," he said.

The current situation in Lebanon will last "until the explosion of Syria," Gen 'Awn said, without elaborating.

The Christian military leader rejected the widespread international support for Mr Mu'awwad's election, including a call from the United Nations Security Council.

"I express my pity for this world which uses its moral and political power, through the Security Council, to recommend a coup d'etat in a small country like Lebanon, by urging Lebanese soldiers and people to concede sovereignty to the occupier," he said.

'Awn Warns Sa'adah Against Joining Government

NC1211062489 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] General Michel 'Awn yesterday warned Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah that he will not be allowed to stay in Shibtin if he agrees to join the government expected to be formed soon. 'Awn emphasized that he will not allow anyone to disrupt the political situation in East Beirut.

Sa'adah Wants Christian Unity, Supports 'Awn

NC1211165489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Phalangist Party Leader Dr George Sa'adah has announced that he is ready to meet with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn for clarification purposes. In an interview with LE MONDE and AFP, he said: I still support Gen 'Awn and his ideas, but we must find out now whether we are for or against his policy, as there are many ways to ensure freedom and sovereignty in Lebanon.

Regarding the possibility of his participation in a government formed by President Rene Mu'awwad, Dr Sa'adah explained that the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Front support the president. In their view, however, unity among Christians should take priority, he asserted. He added that consultations must be held in this regard with the Christian leaders, including Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' and National Liberal Party leader Dany Sham'un.

Speaking on another occasion, the Phalangist Party leader described the al-Ta'if document as an accord document and not a Phalangist plan. At a meeting last night in Shibtin with Phalangist Party officials and citizens, he said: What we achieved was an agreement regarding Syrian withdrawal to al-Biqa' within 2 years. After that, the Lebanese and Syrian Governments would meet to discuss the question of the Syrian presence in

al-Biqa'. He expressed his hope that there will be a complete Syrian withdrawal within a specific period.

Sa'adah stressed the need for unity among Christians in preparation for achieving Lebanese unity. He denied all reports claiming that he had met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

Sa'adah called on everyone to read the al-Ta'if document, and expressed his readiness to discuss it with anyone who so wishes.

Sa'adah Says Ja'ja' Supports Al-Ta'if Agreement

NC1511183889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah has asserted that the peace process in Lebanon has begun and that no one can stop it.

In an interview with the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM, Sa'adah said that the al-Ta'if agreement is important for gradually carrying out internal reforms and establishing Lebanese sovereignty. He added that the Lebanese Front will try to convince 'Awn that insisting on this stand will not be good for Lebanon.

Sa'adah pointed out that Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' supports the al-Ta'if agreement and is trying to bring the parties together.

Ja'ja' Meets With General 'Awn, Comments

NC1511123889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] General Michel 'Awn and Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' met for an hour today. After the meeting, Dr Ja'ja' was asked: Is the political atmosphere as cloudy as the weather today? He replied: No, the political atmosphere is better. It is cloudy sometimes and shiny at other times. He was then asked what he thinks the political atmosphere is like today? He said: Not bad. With calm, reason, wisdom, and prudence, everything could be solved.

Junblatt Cited on Salim al-Huss' Appointment

NC1311135289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, has said that he would accept Dr Salim al-Huss' appointment as prime minister if asked to do so. But, he added, he is not sure how the dialogue will take off from there. I and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri are still in disagreement with Al-Huss, Junblatt said.

In an interview with Radio France Inter and the newspaper FRANCE-SOIR, Junblatt said: There is no objection to our participation in the government. We can join the government and then act as opposition from the inside, as we did before with Dr al-Huss.

Junblatt said he is interested in the Defense Ministry, saying that the Army now is the chief problem. He also stipulated that the national forces get one-third of the ministerial portfolios.

Junblatt asserted: We and Syria are now on the retreat. Only the right-wingers and the traditionalists, such as Dr Salim al-Huss, Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, have gained from the al-Ta'if agreement, he added.

PSP Issues Statement on Al-Huss Government

NC1311163089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] The Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] Political Bureau met today under the chairmanship of PSP leader Walid Junblatt and issued a statement. The statement said:

1. The PSP views the request made to Salim al-Huss to head a national reconciliation government as a continuation of the old trend impeding the nationalist confrontation with the isolationist sectarian forces. The policy of Prime Minister al-Huss toward the military establishment as regards the release of financial credits and foreign affairs was one of the impediments which had a negative effect on the nationalist battle and its outcome. We believe Prime Minister al-Huss will pursue a policy of vacillation, reluctance, and indecision in his approach to nationalist work, although this work should lead to a genuine reconciliation based on justice and equality. Therefore, the PSP urges the consolidation of the nationalist forces' positions in the government. The PSP rejects the formation of the government on traditional bases that exclude reform in the nationalist political representation and erode the role and influence of the forces which confronted Israel, NATO, and the sectarian hegemony plan, including the national resistance in the south and all the forces that confront the Zionized scheme within Lebanon. In this respect, the PSP insists that it be represented according to its actual influence and given basic portfolios as a guarantee for the government to carry out the responsibility for restoring Lebanon's unity and bringing about a genuine national reconciliation.

2. The PSP calls for a campaign to be launched to rebuild the military establishment within pan-Arab tendencies and to safeguard the role and positions of the nationalists in this establishment, especially the nationalist army's command, officers, and non-commissioned officers, foremost amongst whom are Major General Sami al-Khatib and his colleagues. The PSP considers this issue a priority because this establishment is a basic pillar in the construction of the state. The PSP also stresses the need to safeguard democratic freedoms as a precondition for creating a popular and nationalist opposition that may contribute to the battle to rebuild a unified Lebanon, show fairness to the toiling classes, and fulfill their demands, which are not included in any sectarian plan.

3. The PSP disapproves of the artificial uproar about the role of the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces in the reconciliation process, the attempt to portray this role as a comprehensive, national, salvational one, and the apparent exaggeration in depicting these forces' stands and positions. The PSP draws attention to the fact that these forces have until the last moment been supporting Michel 'Awn's plan, and still declare their adherence to his slogans. Thus, we believe that the battle against the isolationist forces is assuming new dimensions and methods, and has taken on a largely democratic character. Furthermore, this battle will continue until Lebanon's Arabism and democracy have been firmly established.

Hizballah Official Discusses Al-Huss Government

NC1411213489 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] An official of the Lebanese Hizballah has stated that the decision to ask Salim al-Huss to form a government does not herald a change in the Lebanese political situation. He added that if this government intends to implement the al-Ta'if resolutions, then it will harm the Muslims in the long run.

During a telephone conversation with our correspondent in Beirut, the Hizballah official rejected the Maronite and sectarian regime in Lebanon, regardless of its color. He said that the Lebanese crisis cannot be solved by replacing individuals and that the overthrow of the ruling sectarian regime in Lebanon will remain Hizballah's constant goal.

The Hizballah official said that the Lebanese Muslims are currently facing two crises. The first is caused by the al-Ta'if accord, which has perpetuated political sectarianism, and the second by Michel 'Awn, who is seeking to set up a Maronite administration in the eastern sector of Beirut.

Al-Huss Places Budget at President's Disposal

NC1511132489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] In his capacity as finance minister, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss issued a decree, declaring that following the election of President Rene Mu'awwad as president of the Republic, the presidential budget allocation for 1989 will be placed at the disposal of President Rene Mu'awwad from the date of his election. The decree adds that all units of the Finance Ministry are forbidden to spend any money from the president's budget without the signature of His Excellency President Rene Mu'awwad or someone authorized by him. The Central Bank is also forbidden to cash any payment order on the account of the president's budget issued contrary to the above rules.

Lebanese Front Declines To Join Consultations

NC1611190689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] In Shibtin, Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah met with party deputy leader attorney Munir al-Haj and with party Secretary General Eng Roget Dib Dr Sa'adah also met with FRG Ambassador Wolfgang Guetelmann.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Front has declined the invitation for consultations [on the formation of a new government] which was scheduled at 1300 today. Phalangist deputy leader Munir al-Haj told this to Prime Minister-designate Dr Salim al-Huss in a telephone conversation.

Refuses To Join Government

NC1711072489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] AFP cited an official of the Maronite Lebanese Front last night as saying that the front has decided not to participate in the forthcoming government. The official noted the decision was made during consultations between the front's leaders.

Communications Station Begins Operational Testing

NC1611140489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] The International Telecommunications Satellite Organization, INTELSAT, is scheduled to begin operational testing of the Jurat al-Ballut international communications station, according to an agreement concluded between the organization and the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.

Eng Elie 'Id, acting director general for construction, equipment, and telecommunications, said he expects the tests to last at most, 4 days, after which 132 lines will become operational. The lines will be as follows: 12 lines with the United Arab Emirates, 18 lines with the United States, 6 lines with Canada, 18 lines with Saudi Arabia, 6 lines with Australia, 36 lines with France, 12 lines with Kuwait, and 12 lines with the United Kingdom. Another 12 lines will be held in reserve for ensuring communications with other countries, or could possibly be distributed among the eight countries listed above. These lines ensure direct communications with the above countries and indirect or transit communications with other countries through the telephone exchanges in al-'Adiliyah and Judaydah. Resumption of communications with these countries depends on the results of the tests.

Lahd Threatens Measures Against UNIFIL

NC1611125689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Agent Antoine Lahd today threatened to take what he termed harsh measures against the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL] unless these forces take

measures against a Norwegian officer who yesterday killed a militiaman named Ilyas Sa'id Jabbur by mistake when he tried to enter Ibil al-Saqy carrying his weapons.

The militia's radio quoted Lahd as saying: Unless UNIFIL takes the necessary measures against the Norwegian officer, we will take harsh measures, and we know how to take them.

Gunmen Fire on UN Position in South

NC1611144789 Paris AFP in English 1422 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Nov 16 (AFP)—Armed men opened fire with automatic weapons on a Norwegian United Nations position in southern Lebanon but caused no casualties, a Norwegian officer said Thursday.

The attack Wednesday followed the death earlier in the day of a militiaman from the South Lebanon Army (SLA), killed in a clash with Norwegian troops at a checkpoint inside the Israeli-imposed "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

The officer, who asked not to be named, said four armed and masked men in civilian clothes opened fire on a Norwegian checkpoint at al-Balat, also in the security zone.

Officers from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) opened an inquiry into the shooting Wednesday, which security sources said occurred when two SLA militiamen refused a routine check at a UN post in the village of Ibil al-Saqy.

The commander of the Israeli-backed SLA, General Antoine Lahd, warned UNIFIL against such incidents. "We will know how to respond," he told SLA radio.

Norwegian soldiers meanwhile temporarily evacuated the region around Ibil al-Sagy, according to UN officials, to avoid friction during the funeral of the slain militiaman.

Bombs Explode Near Deputies' East Beirut Homes

NC1711054089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] An explosive charge went off outside the home of Deputy Farid Sirhal in Badaru in East Beirut at 0230 hours today. Another charge exploded near the home of Deputy Michel Sasin in al-Ashrafiyah in East Beirut at about 0245. The explosions resulted in only property damage.

In another development on the contact lines, rocket and machinegun fire occurred on the Primo and al-Barjawi combat lines in the capital at dawn today.

Amal, Lebanese Forces Exchange 'Detainees'

NC1511122889 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] The Lebanese Forces and the Amal Movement exchanged four detainees at the racecourse at noon today. Ahmad al-B'alabakki from the Amal Movement, Joseph al-Jubayli from the Lebanese Forces, and an Algerian officer, Jumaa Ramadan, supervised the exchange which initially had been scheduled for yesterday. The two kidnapped Lebanese Forces members who were released by Amal today are Sami Joseph Karam and Antoine Abu-Zayd Daw'. They were kidnapped in al-Biqa'. The Lebanese Forces released Muhammad Ahmad Zu'aytar and Yusuf Salim Harithi who had been kidnapped in the eastern areas 2 months ago.

Army Clashes With Syrians on Al-Madfun Bridge

NC1611213289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] An altercation occurred between Syrian forces and the Lebanese army at the al-Madfun Bridge [crossing point between the Jubayl and al-Batrun districts] tonight. The altercation soon developed into an exchange of fire involving light-, medium-, and heavy-caliber weapons. There are no reports of casualties.

Army Brigade To Conduct Maneuvers in Al-Biqa'

NC1611101089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Army's 12th Brigade will conduct maneuvers with live ammunition on Saturday, 18 November, in the vicinity of al-Tayyibah, in the al-Biqa' area. The exercise will be observed by acting Army commander Major General Sami al-Khatib, the al-Biqa' area commander Brigadier General Ibrahim Shahin, and a large number of Army officers. [passage omitted]

'Corrective Movement' Rally in Damascus 16 Nov

Draws National Leaders

JN1611185289

[Editorial Report] Damascus Television Service in Arabic at 1502 GMT on 16 November links up with Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic to carry a live a speech rally at Damascus University, sponsored by the Damascus branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party to mark the 19th anniversary of the Corrective Movement. Reception is fair. The rally is attended by Ba'th Party Assistant Secretary General 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, ministers, and members of the National Progressive Front.

At 1505 a minute of silence is observed to honor martyrs of the Arab nation. The Ba'th Party anthem is then sung, followed by applause.

At 1510, Misbah Baghdadi, the teachers' union president, delivers a 17-minute speech on behalf of the popular organizations. He says the corrective movement has bridged the gap between party leadership echelons and the grassroots. The Corrective Movement, he adds, was a turning point in modern Arab history. The October War was the most important achievement of the Corrective Movement, shattering the myth of the Israeli Army's invincibility. The speaker goes on to praise the al-Ta'if conference on Lebanon, derides 'Awn as a small general, and castigates Saddam's "fascist" regime for backing 'Awn. Baghdadi declares that Syria, led by the Ba'th Party, will continue to pursue the goal of strategic parity with Israel. He salutes the intifadah, the Armed Forces of Syria, the Lebanese people, the National Progressive Front, the Ba'th Party, and President al-Asad.

At 1528 poet 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Hisni recites a 16-minute poem entitled "October Hymn," extolling both the Ba'th Party and Al-Asad as "reviver of the Arab nation and its unifier."

At 1445, Safwan al-Qudsi, member of the National Progressive Front's Central Command, begins a 20-minute speech on behalf of the front. He contends that the Corrective Movement ushered in a heroic era and marked the beginning of the model state. He goes on to characterize the period since the Corrective Movement as 19 years of gold. He hails Al-Asad as a historic leader who arrived on the scene when a historical moment was waiting for the right leader. Extolling Al-Asad, the speaker declares that he stood up to invasion from without and within, and praises him as a leader of historic vision. He notes that Al-Asad has warned against understimating the enemy, and urged that we should understand the sources of our strength. Further praising the president, Al-Qudsi credits Al-Asad with possessing special ideological, intellectual, and political talents, as well as exceptional brains, courage, integrity, and candor, and the ability to make the right decision at the right time. He contends that the National Progressive movement is one of the formulas whereby Al-Asad has proved ahead of his time—he has beaten by 18 years the pluralistic wave sweeping some parts of the world today.

At 1606 GMT, the rally is addressed by Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah on behalf of the Arab Socialst Ba'th Party. He begins his 37-minute speech by characterizing 16 November 1970 as a turning point in the life of the party which created a qualitative shift in the pan-Arab struggle. It marked an era of major changes—the era of Hafiz al-Asad. He calls the National Progressive Front a major achievement of the Corrective Movement and says that it encompasses all progressive and nationalist forces, asserting that it has participated energetically in fulfilling the aspirations of the masses. He describes it as a pioneering experience in political and party pluralism, not only regionally, but globally. He goes on to enumerate the "achievements" of various sectors since the Corrective Movement. In the Arab-wide arena, Mashariqah maintains that since the Corrective Movement began, Syria became the only bastion of confrontation, steadfastness, and defiance in the Arab region.

On the Arab-Israeli conflict, Mashariqah declares that Syria "will continue to struggle with all its resources to bring about a complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and to assure the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people led by their right to return, to self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state in Palestine." The vice president affirms that Syria will continue to back the intifadah, as well as the resistance in southern Lebanon and in the Golan Heights. On Lebanon, Mashariqah asserts that Syria is concerned for the country's independence and sovereignty. Noting that the Lebanese have endorsed elements of national reconcilation and elected a new president, Mashariqah emphasizes that these developments will terminate the civil war. The vice president contends that "the national reconcilation government will manage to remove the deviationist clique that is attempting to impede the national reconcilation march".

Mashariqah charges that "the rightist, fascist Iraqi regime is pursuing its suspect role in the region with a view to securing the continued backing of the imperialist and Zionist forces for it in repressing our people in Iraq and its bloody crimes against this people." He goes on to charge that by supporting the Zionist-backed "clique" in Lebanon, the Iraqi regime has stood in the face of both Lebanese nationalists and Arab public opinion.

The vice president concludes by maintaining that in the unionist effort of the past 2 decades, Syria has been the key contributor. He lists the unionist endeavors from 1970 to 1988 and pays tribute to the Arab martyrs, the Golan people, the intifadah, the Syrian Armed Forces, and Al-Asad.

At 1645 GMT the speech rally concludes with the audience chanting the Ba'th Party anthem. The live relay ends at 1650 GMT.

Vice President Speaks

JN1611194589 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1606 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Speech by Syrian Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah at a 16 November rally at Damascus University marking the 19th anniversay of the Corrective Movement—live]

[Excerpts] Brother citizens: If it is axiomatic that an event is judged by the effects it has on various aspects of life and that an event's significance is measured by its consequences, then what the Syrian Arab Republic and the Arab region saw on the morning of 16 November 1970 was a unique occurrence. That event [the Corrective Movement] constituted a watershed in the progress of the party's struggle and the lives of the masses, and marked a qualitative shift to a special stage along the path of the pan-Arab struggle. [passage omitted]

Foremost among the fruits of the blessed Corrective Movement has been the consolidation of Syria's national unity and domestic front, nurturing the national spirit and sense of pan-Arab responsibility, and cementing the bonds between the party and popular masses, as well as the rallying of the masses around their symbol, hope, and leader of their triumphant march—the struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. The masses declare their absolute allegiance to President Hafiz al- Asad and swear allegiance to him as a historic leader of the Arab nation. They further declare their determination to pursue the path of work and construction under the courageous, wise leadership of the struggler President Hafiz al-Asad—the march of the struggle for liberation, progress and socialism. In this context, the National Progressive Front in Syria was a major achievement of the Corrective Movement, embracing all progressive and nationalist forces, and devoting its energies in the interest of the battles for construction and liberation. [passage omitted]

Comrades, brother citizens: On the pan-Arab front, Syria, under the blessed Corrective Movement, is now the sole bastion of confrontation, steadfastness, and defiance in the Arab arena, defending the honor, pride, dignity, and rights of the Arab nation, standing up to its adversaries, with their greed and plans that seek to dominate the Arab region and control its political, economic, military, and cultural resources and to open the road for the Zionist enemy to build Greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile at the expense of Arab land, the Arab nation, and Arab rights. Syria's militant, liberating line has made it the hope of Arab masses across the Arab homeland to set free occupied Arab land and regain usurped pan-Arab rights, led by the national right of the Palestinian Arab people to return to their homeland, to self-determination, and to the establishment of their independent state on their land and national soil. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian question is the central issue in the struggle of the Arab nation. Syria has worked to build a solid material base for steadfastness and confrontation and to attain strategic parity in all areas with the Zionist entity, and to marshal Arab energies to face the common danger in the battle of pan-Arab destiny. Hence, Syria's ceaseless, absolute support for the national struggle of the Palestinian people. The Palestinian issue shall remain Syria's first concern. Syria will continue to struggle with all its resources to bring about a complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and to assure the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people led by their right to return, to self-determination, and to the establishment of their independent state in Palestine. Syria will go all out to promote the struggle against the Zionist enemy. Syria never misses a chance to underscore the pan-Arab dimension of the struggle with the Zionist enemy and has emphasized that attempts at compartmentalizing the conflict and deluding ourselves about the possibility of attaining peace through separate or partial steps only will increase our enemy's intransigence and stubbornness. Neither will it lead to peace in the region. Peace can be achieved only if two conditions are met: a total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the national, inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people. [passage omitted]

Comrades, brother citizens: Syria's brotherly initiative in sisterly Lebanon under the direct instructions of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad has been intended to staunch the flow of blood, keep the country from being parceled out to sectarian entities, and safeguard its sovereignty and independence. From the start, Syria has sought to show that there can be no solution short of reconciliation among the different parties, and that the road to reconciliation lies in dialogue. [passage omitted]

The internal Lebanese crisis is at a crossroads, now that the Lebanese brothers have worked out and endorsed the principles of national reconcilation, elected a new president into office, and are about to have a new government of national accord. We hope these changes will end the civil strife and liquidate all its vestiges. Syria will extend every possible assistance requested by the national accord government to reassert state control over every inch of Lebanon. We are confident that the national reconciliation government will manage to remove the deviationist clique that is attempting to impede the national reconciliation march. [passage omitted]

Comrades, brothers: Under the current circumstances in the Arab region, when Arab masses are yearning for the realization of their pan-Arab objectives—liberating the occupied Arab territories, regaining usurped pan-Arab rights, and confronting the enemies and conspiratorial plots of the Arab nation—the rightist, fascist Iraqi

regime is pursuing its suspect role in the region to secure the continued backing of the imperialist and Zionist forces in order to continue repressing our people in Iraq and commit bloody crimes against them. The agent, fascist regime has not limited itself to the massive physical liquidation of Iraqi nationals; it has extended support and aid to the Zionist- backed clique in Lebanon, flying in the face of all Lebanese nationalists and Arab public opinion. It continues to carry out its suspect, subversive role in the Arab arena. The day of reckoning is not far off when our masses in Iraq will settle accounts with this agent tyrant, who will suffer the same fate as the other despots in Iraq. [passage omitted]

Oil Minister on Exports, Future Prospects

JN1611204089 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 15 Nov 89 p 3

[By Ahmad Abu-Matar]

[Excerpt] Following the series of recent oil discoveries in Syria, international oil-prospecting companies began to focus their attention on Syrian oil. The rush by these companies to win service contracts in Syria reflected the serious hopes Syrian officials pin on the future of oil in the country and their optimism for soon joining the club of major producers. During the past few years, Syria began to take the first steps toward exporting part of its oil. The ratio of its oil exports against its overall exports rose from 16.6 percent in 1970 to about 62 percent in the first half of the eighties, whereas oil exports during the first half of this year amounted to 71.7 percent of the overall Syrian exports during the same period. AL-BAYAN met with Dr Matanyus Habib, Syrian minister of oil and mineral resources, regarding the status of Syrian oil production and discoveries.

The Syrian oil minister said the volume of Syrian oil production has not yet stabilized, and current output ranges from between 350,000 and 400,000 barrels a day. These are distributed between the oilfields discovered by the Syrian Oil Company and those discovered by the contracting companies operating in Syria.

Regarding the size of Syrian oil reserves, Dr Matanyus Habib said the estimates available on the size of these reserves are not accurate, and that any figure given in this regard would be meaningless because it can change from day to day. The Syrian oil minister attributed this to the fact that exploration is still in its early stages. He said there are 25 drilling rigs in operation, and the results of their exploration are reported on a daily basis. He indicated that current exploratory operations cover less than a quarter of the country's area, which means it will be a long time before the rest of the Syrian areas are explored. He said initial studies indicate that all these areas are promising. He added that the Syrian Oil Company discovered commercial quantities of gas and oil in areas where the contracting companies dug dry wells. This, he said, has prompted some foreign companies to return and prospect for oil in these areas, which were considered to be fully- explored oil-free areas. In light of these facts, the Syrian oil minister voiced optimism that Syria will be one of the major oil producers that will play an effective role in the world oil market and in international oil policy. He stressed that all the oil companies operating in Syria emphasize that the land is promising and that Syria will be a major oil producer in the near future. The Syrian oil minister said that the arrival of a large number of foreign companies possessing geological information and satellite photographs, as well as the results of digging and inspecting old wells demonstrate the presence of large quantities of oil in Syria. He added that Syrian authorities are working seriously toward exploring this oil as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

People's Assembly Approves 1989 Budget Bill

JN1411074189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Damascus—The People's Assembly will resume meetings today within the framework of its current session. The People's Assembly held a meeting yesterday chaired by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, in the presence of a number of ministers.

During this meeting, the assembly approved the draft law of the state budget for fiscal year 1989, as set out in the table of expenditures and revenues. The budget totalled 57 billion Syrian pounds. This is the state's basic annual financial plan to implement the economic plan and achieve its objectives.

Afghanistan

Iranian Newspaper Interviews President Najibullah

LD1611231789 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Some time ago Esteemed Najibullah, the Afghan president, received Mohammad Reza Forqani, correspondent of RESALAT, an Iranian daily newspaper. Below is the text of the interview:

Question: What successes have the peace proposals put forth by the Republic of Afghanistan had so far?

Answer: The new peace proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan and the mechanism for their implementation have been explained in sufficient detail at the ninth conference of heads of state or government of the Nonaligned Movement, which was held in Belgrade. The most important points are: The start of negotiations and dialogue between the Republic of Afghanistan and all opposition groups and organizations who desire peace; the convening of a national peace conference with the participation of all parties to the conflict; the declaration of a cease-fire for 6 months; the creation of a representative council from the representatives of parties and groups who take part in the peace conference; the formation of a commission for drafting a new constitution and election law; the formation of a broad-based coalition government; the convening of a Loya Jerga for the purpose of approving the new constitution and the election law; holding general elections and the formation of the government by the winning party or coalition of parties.

We also have proposed the convening of an international conference for the purpose of establishing Afghanistan's permanent neutrality and demilitarization. The holding of a regional conference to find a political solution to the problem of Afghanistan also is included in the peace proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan.

It should be stated that our new proposal for peace has been welcomed not only inside the country, but also by the international community—in particular by an absolute majority of the nonaligned countries at the Belgrade conference.

This proposal meets not only the interests of all Afghan political and military forces, parties, and groups, but also the legitimate interests of all those countries involved in the Afghanistan question. This proposal also has been supported by a considerable number of (opposition) commanders inside the country and individual Afghans outside it. We shall continue our efforts to realize this proposal.

Question: What is your view on the formation of an Islamic government in Afghanistan?

Answer: Afghanistan is an Islamic country, and all of our people, except for a small minority of Hindus, are Muslims. The sacred religion of Islam is the religion of Afghanistan. In the Republic of Afghanistan, no law can be contrary to the tenets and orders of the sacred religion of Islam and other values enshrined in such a law. Our country is thus an Islamic country, and our state is in the service of Islam and the Muslim people of Afghanistan. The Islamic Research Center of Afghanistan, which was formed after the April Revolution, was raised to the level of an Islamic university last year. For the first time in the history of Afghanistan, a Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowment was formed by the Republic of Afghanistan. The state has undertaken broad measures toward strengthening the conditions under which our faithful people perform their religious duties. The amount of money which has been spent during the last 10 years in looking after and constructing mosques, takiyas, and other sacred places, as well as on allocations toward the pilgrimage to Mecca and in support of religious leaders and mullahs, is far more than the amount of money spent during the 50 years prior to the revolution.

Afghanistan is therefore an Islamic country and shall remain Islamic in the future, too. Here I would like to emphasize one point: A number of leaders of the armed Afghan opposition groups based in Pakistan want, under the cloak of Islam and the pretext of an Islamic government, to implement in Afghanistan the expansionist plans of some Pakistani circles. Still others are attempting to propagate the anti-Islamic Wahabi belief in our country under the same pretext. Behind the apparently Islamic slogans of certain opposition groups are hidden particular plans and interests of foreign powers. The people of Afghanistan, however, while very strongly believing in the sacred religion of Islam as the common religion of all the Islamic world, will not allow their independence, national sovereignty, or territorial integrity to be encroached upon or violated.

Question: At what stage are relations between Iran and Afghanistan? Have you met any Iranian authorities?

Answer: Afghanistan and Iran are linked by various political, economic, cultural, geographical, and other ties. The people of Afghanistan and Iran are interested in having common religion, language, culture, and borders. This interest can best be secured at a time when there is friendly and good, neighborly relations between the two Muslim countries.

As far as the Republic of Afghanistan is concerned, we want friendly and good, neighborly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran on the basis of reciprocal respect for independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs.

In our opinion, there are broad areas for economic, social, commercial, cultural, and etc, cooperation between our countries that we can use in the interests of both countries' people and in the interests of peace and security in the region. In our view, the recent realistic approach by the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran vis-a-vis the issue of Afghanistan is a positive step

that our people have welcomed. We hope it will not be long before friendly and good, neighborly relations in all fields are being consolidated and broadened between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Question: Considering the new views expressed by the Pakistani authorities, how optimistic are you about the solution of the Afghanistan issue?

Answer: The recent statements by the Pakistani authorities concerning the political solution of the Afghanistan issue are contradictory, repugnant, and lacking in necessary consistency. On the other hand, these statements so far are limited to words, and there is no practical barking to them. Contrary to the text and spirit of the Geneva Accords, interference and armed aggressions from Pakistan against Afghanistan continue and even have been intensified in the border regions. Worst of all, the Pakistani authorities have put their territory at the disposal of Americans and the Saudi Wahhabis. These people, by taking advantage of the facilities provided to them by Pakistani military intelligence, are engaged in destructive activities and combat actions inside our country.

We hope that the Pakistani authorities, in light of recent developments and in consideration of the realities in Afghan society, remove the military thought from their minds and accept the political solution. Naturally, a realistic and just political solution to the domestic and external issues of Afghanistan is not only in the interests of the people of the two countries, but also is in the interests of peace and stability in the region.

Question: Is it possible to declare general amnesty for the opposition?

Answer: When declaring the policy of national reconciliation, we announced general amnesty for all the opposition, which still is in force. According to the decree on general amnesty, no one will be prosecuted or punished for his past actions, and everyone can resume work and a peaceful life in the country as members of Afghan society, with all rights.

Moreover, we are faithful to our commitments vis-a-vis the Geneva Accords concerning refugees and returnees, and we now have provided all possibilities for the voluntary and honorable return of Afghan refugees. All returnees will enjoy equal political, social, economic, and cultural rights and duties without discrimination.

Question: There are many similarities between the last years of the Iran-Iraq war and the current events in your country. Do you think that the same policies which prevented the fall of Saddam, [Husayn] will deprive the mujahidin of victory? [as heard]

Answer: The conditions and situation are different: Perhaps you have discovered that the deeds of the oppositions to the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan have made the people lose confidence in them. By launching rockets and killing children, women, and innocent and defenseless people, they have aroused the hatred and revulsion of the people. Neither in our country nor in any other country can anyone be found who approves of terroristic deeds.

Question: The missile attacks were the main reason for ending the Iran-Iraq war. Will the missile attacks bring such results in your country, too?

Answer: I think that missiles neither end war nor establish peace. It is logical and sound policies which bring the end of a war closer and prepare ground for peace.

Question: How far will you go in the fight for the defense of your country? Do you give yourself the right to use any type of weapons against the mujahidin?

Answer: Our path is the path of peace. We have proposed an international conference to guarantee the permanent neutrality of the Republic of Afghanistan. If there is such a guarantee there will be no need for us to take weapons from this or that country. On the other hand, the world is heading in the direction of general disarmament. Our direction is the same.

Question: How do you assess the great volume of assistance from the Soviet Union?

Answer: Our country now is subjected to flagrant and open attacks by the armed opposition forces, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis. In such a condition, no state has any choice but to resort to necessary measures to defend itself. Of course, these measures include the strengthening of the Armed Forces.

Question: As the president of Afghanistan, how do you see the prospect for peace in the country?

Answer: We are optimistic with regard to the development of the peace process. If the foreign interference ends right now, and if the Geneva Accords are implemented by their signatories, peace soon will be established. The new political detente which is forming and developing in various parts of the world has created a favorable climate and possibilities for the political solution to the problems. At a time when efforts are developing toward a political solution to the issues in Central America, South Africa, and Southeast Asia, certainly such efforts could be fruitful and effective with regard to Afghanistan.

Question: Are you ready to assure the mujahidin groups that if they come to the country without accepting the national reconciliation policy, they will be able to act as an opposition?

Answer: Based on the instructions of the Constitution and provided that they have peaceful motives, they can continue their activities.

Question: You earlier said that you have released Iranian prisoners. Will you release other Iranian prisoners, too?

Answer: You should contact your relevant authorities, and if there are any Iranian prisoners with us, then they should make a list of them and should go through legal channels. Then, of course, the good will of the Republic of Afghanistan will exist.

Soviet Chief Editor Interviews Najibullah

LD1611203889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, recently received at Gol Khana Presidential Palace the chief editor of INTERNATIONAL LIFE JOURNAL of the Soviet Union for an interview.

During this interview, Esteemed Najibullah replied to questions put by this chief editor in connection with the political and military situation in the country, the implementation of the national reconciliation policy, and the peaceful proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan aimed at ending war and bloodshed in the country.

Najibullah Receives Journalists From Pakistan

LD1611181189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, at a press conference this afternoon at Gol Khana Presidential Palace received the 12- member delegation of Pakistani journalists from the daily newspapers JANG, MASHREQ, NAWAI WAKHT, and other daily newspapers of Pakistan. He replied to their questions.

During this press conference, Esteemed Najibullah briefed them on the political solution to the situation around Afghanistan, on ensuring peace in the country, on the nonobservation and nonimplementation of the Geneva Accords by Pakistan, on the military situation in some provinces of Afghanistan, and on the friendly and good, neighborly relations between the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Concerning the prospects for peace in Afghanistan, Esteemed Najibullah said that our people are weary of war and have deep hatred for warmongers. If interference in our country's internal affairs by Pakistan, the United States and Saudi Arabia end, and if the Geneva Accords are implemented sincerely, then peace will be established very soon in our country.

Esteemed Najibullah also replied to questions from the journalists about the international developments concerning a political solution to the issues around Afghanistan, the country's foreign policy, the internal security situation, and the county's implementation of the national reconciliation policy.

Sorabi, USSR Envoy Discuss Aid, Relations

LD1611205589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Dr Abdul Wahid Sorabi, vice president, had a courtesy meeting today in his office with His Excellency Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union in Kabul.

During this meeting, the sides discussed the Soviet Union's economic assistance to Afghanistan and the consolidation and expansion of the friendly relations between both countries.

Mujahidin Intensify Operations in Various Parts

BK1611144089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have intensified their operations to maintain pressure on various parts of the country and to achieve success. The mujahidin attacked several posts of the Kabul regime in the (Sendal Sherkat) area of Qonduz Province, killing 15 members of the militia. According to a report, they attacked the Seventh Nationalist Squadron in Qandhar, setting fire to an ammunition dump. There also was fighting around the Qandahar airport. Reports also say that in their operations in Zabol and Laghman Provinces, the mujahidin caused heavy losses to the Kabul regime.

Damage Jet Fighter at Airport

BK1611155689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin launched rocket attacks on Qandahar airport, damaging a jet fighter plane and a military vehicle and killing five Kabul soldiers. According to reports of the news agency of the Afghan Interim Government—MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan], this attack was launched from near the airport area last Monday [13 November]. In their attack on (Towr Kotal) post, the mujahidin damaged two tanks and destroyed one military vehicle.

Weapons Seized in Fighting Around Qandahar

LD1111181489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] The heroic Armed Forces of the country are making eternal epics in independently defending the country and securing peaceful life for the people, which will be registered in the golden pages of our proud history.

After the withdrawal of the limited units of the Soviet Union from our country, the armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis have increased

their military pressure on Nangarhar, Khowst, Qandahar and major highways of the country for the implementation of their evil plans.

The units and sub-units of the Republic of Afghanistan, in cooperation with the people, repeatedly have repulsed and foiled enemy attacks and violations and inflicted crushing blows on them.

In continuation of operations clearing the localities of the armed extremists attached to Pakistan, heavy losses were inflicted on the armed extremists as a result of a broad, successful mopping-up operation which was carried out, in accordance with the plan, in Khoshab Region, Mola Abdollah village, Mola Korsi village and Mola Qala village, Qandahar Province.

During this operation, more than 5,000 surface-to-surface missiles, (?7) 75mm artilleries, 4 mortars, more than 2 million rounds of various ammunition for light weapons, 50,000-60,000 mortar mines, 3 Stinger rockets, 5 British made (?strado) rockets, 800 shells for recoilless weapons, 700 anti-personnel mines, 400 anti-personnel mines, and a large number of various other weapons and ammunition were seized. Moreover, 800 positions and 600 communication channels of the enemy were destroyed.

Rival Group Causes Explosion in Wahhabi Center

LD1211145889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] There was a huge explosion recently in one of the centers of the extremist group of Sayyafi Wahhabi in Alingar District, Laghman Province. As a result of this explosion, which was caused by explosives planted by a rival group, Abu Zakriya, a Saudi Wahhabi mercenary was killed and a number of others were badly injured. Arms, ammunition, and books belonging to the Wahhabist group, which had been hidden there for distribution among the Muslim and peace-loving people of that district, were burned.

Security Forces Discover Explosives, Weapons

LD1311062189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 12, BAKHTAR—The security forces of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] detected in time a plot of the Pakistani-backed extremist on Nov. 11, 1989.

Our military correspondent reports that four kg explosives, three mortar shells, some bullets, a pistol and three ground-to-ground rockets which had been hidden by the extremists for further killing of innocent people in Kabul City, were discovered.

Extremists in Nangarhar Reported 'Neutralized'

LD1611154789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Units and companies of the country's Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province are accomplishing their tasks with high combat morale and are inflicting shattering blows on the armed extremists, Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahabis who have embarked on attacking some areas in Nangarhar Province since 14 November. The joint enemy attacks, which had begun on the above date from four directions accompanied by heavy weapons fire, have been resolutely neutralized by the armed forces units. The units have striked against the enemy troops who had attacked Darwaza garrison, and heavy loss of life has been inflicted on them. As a result, 50 Pakistani-linked armed extremists have been killed. Three mortars, two recoilless guns, two rocket launchers, six strongholds, and three caches belonging to them have been destroyed.

Quoting an authorized source of the Armed Forces, the military correspondent of the BAKHTAR reports that during the last 3 days as a result of artillery strikes by the forces and combat operations by the Air Force, 187 troops of the enemy joint forces have been taken out of combat. One missile launching unit, two tanks, three mortars, two strongholds, one launching unit for Sakar-20 missiles and four trucks carrying weapons and ammunition belonging to them have been destroyed. Their combat morale is very low.

Also the armed forces units and companies stationed in Nangarhar Province have captured key positions in some directions, which has a fundamental role in foiling enemy attacks. The enemy has continued firing heavy weapons at security posts in Samarkhel and Sorkhrod and some other areas. As a result, one member of the units has been martyred and nine have been wounded.

The report adds that the units and companies of the Armed Forces in Khowst Major District on the one hand have strengthened their defense positions, and on the other hand, to rebuff the probable attacks by armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis, are enhancing their combat readiness. Pakistani militarists, extremist forces and Saudi Wahhabis are going around Khowst and attempting an attack. The joint enemy forces are equipped with heavy weapons, including Stinger missiles.

The warmongering criminals during the last 3 days have fired heavy weapons on the Tanay, Gorbaz, and Zazi Maydan areas and on security posts of Khowst and Gardez. In response, the assembly points of the enemy and their resistance centers have been subjected to artillery, air force, and rocket strikes. During the last 3 days, 121 joint enemy troops have been taken out of combat. One rocket missile unit belonging to them and heavy and light weapons have been destroyed. The

armed units stationed in Paktia Province are accomplishing their patriotic and national tasks with high combat readiness and morale.

According to another report, as a result of air force strikes by the Armed Forces on the dens of extremist armed groups in Zabol Province, 124 enemy troops were taken out of combat. Some 7 heavy machine guns, 3 DShKs, 2 ZK-1s, two 82mm guns, 2 rocket missile launchers, 335 rounds for rocket launchers, 2 transport vehicles carrying weapons, thousands of mortar mines, and assorted ammunition belonging to them have been destroyed.

La'eq Meets Nangarhar Military Personnel

LD1111063389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 10, BAKHTAR—Sulayman La'eq, Politburo Member and secretary of the Central Commitee of the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] accompanied by General Manouki Mangal [name as received] and chairman of Defence Council of Nangarhar Province, met on Nov. 8 with the military personnel of Nangarhar Province, reports a BAKHTAR military correspondent.

At the meeting, Sulayman La'eq spoke about the politico-military situation to the army personnel of that province and specified their duties and obligations in defending the independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the country.

Meanwhile, he lauded the devotion and heroism demonstrated by the military detachments stationed there in rebuffing the attacks made by the aliens and the armed extremists.

In response, General Fazil Ahmad, commander of Nangarhar Armed Forces, on behalf of the military personnel of that province, thanked the government of the Republic of Afghanistan, particularly President Najibullah the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, for the proper attention given to them. He, on behalf of his colleagues, promised that the army detachments there will spare no sacrifices for defending the country's independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty.

BAKHTAR Reports on Military Situation

LD1511072189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] [Passage indistinct] was killed and four residents wounded.

Our military correspondent reports that in the past four days the Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province in response to the rocket attacks of the extremists, resorted to retaliatory operations killing or wounding 152 extremists and twenty vehicles carrying enemy's arms and munitions were also destroyed.

According to another report, the enemy for the purpose of blocking the Kabul-Jalalabad highway have recently intensified their rocket attacks on security posts along the highway especially in the area of Tangi Abreshem (Abreshem Strait).

According to another report the armed opposition groups have accelerated firing of heavy missiles on different areas of Paktia Province and its centre, Gardeyz City in the past four days. Also Pak-backed extremists are making preparations to put more pressure on Khowst City, by firing rockets.

Five soldiers and three civilians were injured due to the rocket attacks of the enemy in Khowst.

Thus, Khowst garrison resorted to counter attacks killing or wounding 72 extremists. A large amount of arms and munitions of the enemy were demolished as well.

Based on another report one soldier was killed and five others wounded due to the heavy missiles fired by the extremists on security posts around Qandahar Airport as well as Toorkotal [spelling as received] Region, Qandahar Province. The Qandahar garrison retaliated and inflicted heavy casualties upon the enemy.

Government Supports Wazirestan Peace Efforts

LD1211180189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Statement of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, issued on 12 November—read by announcer]

[Text] As our compatriots are aware, on 2 November an elected broad assembly [jerga] of free tribes was held in northern Wazirestan. The jerga discussed ways of finding a peaceful end to the war in the Republic of Afghanistan and to methods of solving the problems and questions which face the people of the free tribes. It issued an important decision in this regard.

The courageous free tribes once again faced the historical role and mission of their forefathers and raised their strong voice in favor of the cessation of war and bloodshed in Afghanistan.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, on the basis of historical and traditional solidarity between the people of Afghanistan and the free tribes, warmly welcomed the convocation of this jerga and expresses support for its decisions in connection with the cessation of war in Afghanistan and the just and legitimate rights of the people of free tribes.

In reality, during the last decade this is the first time that a great jerga of elected representatives from the free tribes have come together on their own territory and, opposing with such decisiveness and resolve the continuation of war in Afghanistan, have submitted specific methods for ending the war.

The people of Afghanistan consider themselves partners in the concern of the free tribes in connection with the spreading of false beliefs and sees the provocations by foreigners in this regard as the nucleus of the threat and danger to all Afghans.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan believes that the absolute majority of Afghans, including the armed commanders of the opposition, want to maintain peace through understanding and consider this suitable ground for reaching true peace.

The continuation of war not only adds to the suffering and misfortunes of the Afghan people, but leaves a very unpleasant influence on the economic and social life of the free tribes and endangers their vital interests and traditional freedom. Therefore, the people of the free tribes cannot remain indifferent to the development of the situation in Afghanistan and find they must play their role in ending the war and maintaining peace for the Afghans and the free tribes.

While sincerely affirming the policy of national reconciliation, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan states it accepts the demand of the free tribes concerning their mediations between all concerned Afghan parties, and it welcomes such mediations. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan invites the jerga to send an authorized delegation to the Republic of Afghanistan and to continue their Islamic, humanitarian, and national activity for seeking the cessation of war and bloodshed in Afghanistan. As far as the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is concerned, it is ready to strengthen the role of the jerga of free tribes in bringing about peace in the Republic of Afghanistan. We ask all Afghans, inside and outside the country, who are in favor of peace and stability in Afghanistan, to use this opportunity, join hands together, and raise their voice for the restoration of peace and the cessation of war.

India

Poll Predicts Election Defeat for Congress (I)

BK1611152789 Hong Kong AFP in English
1503 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 16 (AFP)—Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party is headed for defeat in next week's ballot for Indian parliament, according to the results of an independent opinion poll released Thursday.

The party, which is contesting 509 of the 525 seats for which elections are due, may win only 180 to 215 constituencies, said the poll, one of the first to be released here on the elections.

The survey was conducted for the widely read SUNDAY weekly by pollster Surjit Bhalla, who quizzed 11,500 voters in 38 constituencies in the first week of this month and re-polled in three constituencies a week later, a summary of the findings said.

"Our results showed a swing of five percent away from the Congress (I) so that (the) final tally could be even lower than 215 by polling day," said the survey, to be published in the November 19 issue of SUNDAY magazine.

An advance copy of the article was provided to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE on Thursday.

Congress (I), the summary added, would fare worst in India's northern and eastern states and in western Gujarat State, but would do better in the south as well as in western Maharashtra State.

The survey said communalism and corruption were major issues for the some 500 million voters, with more than half the respondents blaming Mr Gandhi for the worsening Hindu-Moslem strife across the country.

"A high proportion of respondents also felt that the prime minister was personally corrupt—a third of all voters in the west and east held this view," it said.

The findings came as back-street bookmakers were giving increasingly favourable odds on the near-united opposition, which has vowed to end Mr Gandhi's five-year reign in the November 22-24-26 hustings.

But the magazine cautioned that "things can still change," adding that the poll was carried out before the laying of the foundation stone of a Hindu temple in northern India on a site disputed by Moslems resulted in renewed communal violence.

It also stated that replies to questionnaires used had shown that "the Indian voter is not yet enamoured of the opposition."

"In fact he is cynical about politics in general," it added," if Vishwanath Pratap Singh (the opposition's shadow prime minister) does become the next prime minister of India, it will not be because he has won this election, but because Rajiv Gandhi has lost it."

"It is the negative vote that will decide this election.... The poll demonstrates that the Indian voter is angry, disillusioned and cynical."

Maoists Call for Poll Boycott, Attack Campaigners

BK1611112889 Hong Kong AFP in English
1109 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 16 (AFP)—Maoist guerrillas have called for a boycott of upcoming Indian elections and staged a dozen attacks on campaigners in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Thursday [16 November].

Activists of the People's War Group (PWG) called for the boycott in the coastal state, where they are active, and attacked vehicles engaged in election campaigning in three districts in the past three days, the news agency said.

No deaths or injuries were reported in the violence, which was directed against almost all political parties contesting the November 22 elections to the federal parliament and the Andhra Pradesh legislature.

PTI quoted the Maoist group as saying in a statement that elections were "a mere farce" and that "an armed struggle of farmers was the only way" to solve the problems faced by the people.

The Andhra Pradesh government, controlled by the opposition Telegu Desam Party, was said to be taking special measures to maintain peace in areas known to be PWG strongholds.

Indian Maoists are popularly known as Naxalites after a remote village in eastern India where a peasant rebellion erupted in 1967 and soon spread almost throughout the country, leaving hundreds dead.

The Naxalites were virtually crushed by the mid-1970's, but are still active in parts of rural India. Some Maoist groups have renounced violence and are contesting this month's parliamentary elections.

Opposition Parties To Boycott Poll Broadcast

BK1411121389 Delhi PATRIOT in English 6 Nov 89 p 1

[Text] All the major opposition parties have decided to boycott election telecast and broadcast on Doordarshan [television] and Akashvani [All India Radio, Air] to protest against censorship of their scripts.

The parties include National Front partners—the Janata Dal, the Telugu Desam, the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazagham], the Congress-S and the Bhartiya Janata Party [BJP]. The CPI and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India - Marxist] were also likely to follow suit, front spokesman C Lakshmanna told newsmen on Sunday.

Prof Lakshmanna said while the Prime Minister was using Doordarshan and the radio to make all kinds of attacks on the opposition, authorities in the two Government media had asked the opposition parties not to use the words "Bofors Gun" and "Rajiv Gandhi" in their scripts.

"As you will see, the Government is denigrating the opposition parties day in and day out. Both the AIR and the Doordarshan have been turned into the ruling party's private organisations", Prof Lakshmanna said. However, the opposition was not depending on Government media for its publicity, he added.

The spokesman said the front will take up the issue with the Election Commission.

In a statement BJP leader Atal Behari Vajpayee said both Doordarshan and AIR were reporting the Prime Minister's "false, defamatory and inflammatory election speeches in blatant violation of election broadcast guidelines and the Election Commission's code of conduct for parties".

"I am sorry to say that the Government-controlled media are not only obsessed with the ruling party at the Centre and its Prime Minister, it has consistently been hostile to opposition parties", Mr Vajpayee said.

Reacting to the boycott call, Congress spokesman Anand Sharma said that the Congress had nothing to do with the controversy over poll broadcasts and telecasts. It was to be resolved by the Election Commission and the Doordarshan.

He pointed out that at the time of elections, the Government loses control over the electronic media both AIR and Doordarshan, as part of the guidelines, of the Election Commission.

Replying to another query whether Congress poll broadcast would refer to the Bofors issue, Mr Sharma said his party did not believe in running its campaign "entirely on a negative agenda".

Left Democratic Front leaders in Kerala have decided not to participate in the election telecast and broadcast in protest against the direction that they should abstain from mentioning the "Bofors deal" in their speeches, reports PTI. [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA]

Speaking to newsmen in Trivandrum CPI-M state secretary V S Achuthanan, said as leaders of responsible political parties they found it meaningless to go on the AIR or appear on Doordarshan without referring to the Bofors issue, which they felt was the "most important issue before the coming Lok Sabha polls".

CPI State secretary P K Vasudevan Nair, and Janata Dal State unit general secretary Sunderesan Nair, who were also present, said, "we are not ready for any compromise" on this matter.

All India Radio on Sunday clarified that it had not objected to mere reference to the Bofors issue in the poll broadcasts by opposition leaders on AIR.

A spokesman for the Trivandrum station of the AIR said only those portions in the scripts which violated the code regarding poll broadcasts had been objected.

Concern Voiced About Kashmir Election Boycott

BK0911113389 Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Nov 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Kashmir Polls Boycott"]

[Text] With all major Opposition parties announcing their decision to boycott elections in the Kashmir Valley, it is most likely that three National Conference nominees will be declared elected to the Lok Sabha. Mr Mohammad Shafi Bhat of the National Conference has in fact already been declared elected "unopposed" from

the Srinagar constituency after the withdrawal of two independents. Some reports suggest that even the independents will withdraw from the other two constituencies in the Kashmir Valley. The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Alliance, from its headquarters in Muzaffarabad, has been calling for boycott of all elections in Indian Kashmir. In the past, such calls never elicited the kind of response it has evoked now in the Valley. The situation is ominous. No party candidates other than the coalition nominees filed nominations from the three Lok Sabha constituencies in the Valley. The abstention obeyed the call for boycott. So strong is the hold, or fear, of the militants that the electoral process is widely alleged to have lost legitimacy. It is unfortunate that nobody at the Centre has taken notice of the serious implications of the situation created by the boycott of the elections in the Valley. If elections have lost validity in the Valley and if the Kashmiri youth are anguished over the rigging of successive elections, the need is to restore people's faith in free and fair elections. Far from doing this, the rulers at Srinagar, whose democratic credentials are unconvincing, seem to believe that boycott gives them easy wins in three constituencies. They do not understand that they are taking a dangerously myopic view of the crisis in the Valley. The series of hartals have sidelined all conventional political leaders. Time has come to act and arrest the dangerous drift before it reaches a flash point. The Election Commission should take notice of the mockery of the elections being enacted in the Valley.

India's Gandhi, Rodriguez Hold Meeting

FL1511190389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has held a meeting with Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba. Carlos Rafael represented Cuba at the sixth meeting of the South Commission, which met for 3 days in New Delhi. Rodriguez gave Gandhi a personal message from Commander in Chief Fidel Castro which was received with pleasure by the Indian prime minister.

During the meeting, the Indian leader and the Cuban vice president analyzed the economic and political situation of the Third World. Among the topics discussed by Gandhi and Carlos Rafael were the foreign debt, the flow of resources, and protectionism, among others.

Envoy Says UN Resolution on Cambodia Inadequate

BK1711080089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] The UN General Assembly has called for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Cambodia under the supervision of the United Nations and creation of an interim administrating authority. In a resolution adopted by 124 votes with 17 against, the General Assembly also called for the promotion of national reconciliation under the leadership of Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

India and 11 other countries abstained. Explaining India's position, the Indian ambassador to the United Nations, Mr C.R. Gharekhan, said that the present resolution does not contain elements of consensus, reconciliation, and a true comprehensive political settlement. It also does not adequately address the question of ending hostilities, and in fact contains provisions which may not help find a political settlement.

Mr Gharekhan called for all efforts to spare the Cambodian people from further bloodshed and suffering. The first priority, he said, should be a cease-fire and the measures to preserve it, while consultations continued for a political settlement. Mr Gharekhan said for a durable peace in the region, a balanced approach is needed, taking into account the security interest of all the countries in the area and the elimination of outside interference.

Soviet Officials Arrive To Discuss 1990 Trade

BK1711092989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] India and the Soviet Union are to hold official-level talks in New Delhi next week for the finalization of the trade protocol for 1990. An advance team of Soviet officials has arrived in the capital and is now having discussions with senior officials of the Commerce Ministry. An official press release issued in New Delhi says the bilateral trade plan for 1989 is expected to be achieved fully in terms of both exports and imports, giving a substantial boost to the two-way trade. The plan envisages a total trade turnover of 7,000 crore rupees, the release adds.

Iran

Editorial on Imam's Views on Foreign Policy

NC1711111689 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 9 Nov 89 pp 1,3

[Editorial: "Let Us Not Deviate From the Imam's Line"]

[Excerpts] We have the testament of the imam, may his soul be sanctified, and the texts of his messages and speeches in front of us. [passage omitted]

The imam said and wrote much about foreign policy and about relations with other countries and governments, and namely about our approach to America, the Soviet Union, Britain, France, and so on. This topic also appeared very clearly in the imam's testament. We also have recorded the imam's remarks on capitalism and capitalists, on ownership and wealth, as well as on the system's stand on these issues. [passage omitted]

Therefore, if we want to take the imam's views on economic, politica,l and cultural issues as a basis and say, for example, that according to the imam's line we should attack the capitalists and the arrogant or confront cultural and moral corruption, then we should be careful not to

overexaggerate only one "aspect" or one "dimension" and thus overshadow the other aspects and dimensions.

If we interpret the imam's economic views and say that he supported the confisction of all wealth and he rejected ownership and to thus portray the methods used by the current government—despite the fact that the lofty leadership is aware of these methods—as a basic deviation from the imam's line; if we interpret the Imam's remarks in foreign policy as support for hostility against all systems and governments and say that he did not believe that any change could take place in the political situation of governments until eternity; if we interpret the directives of that great man in an incomplete and one-sided manner and say that his view on solving ideological issues and answering correct or incorrect views in society, in universities, in the mass media, and anywhere else is possible only through individual decisions and on the basis of individual or collective discernments followed by direct intervention resulting in the creation of chaos and the use of brutality, then we should know that we ourselves will have made the largest mistake by having resorted to such methods and by having made such allegations.

UN Envoy Wraps Up Iran-Iraq Peace Mission 17 Nov

Eliasson, Velayati Discuss Resolution 598

LD1411221289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Eliasson, the special envoy of the UN secretary general, who has come to Tehran on the third leg of his trip, met this afternoon with Foreign Minister Velayati. In this meeting the latest developments related to the implementation of Resolution 598, and the outcome of the talks held by Eliasson with officials of the Iraqi regime were discussed.

Velayati declared the Islamic Republic of Iran's commitment to continuing the talks on the basis of the agenda set forth by the UN secretary general, which has also been approved by the Security Council. He also expressed the hope that Iraq will show that it wants peace, by carrying out practical steps to implement some clauses of Resolution 598 which have been specified as being urgent by the Security council. In this meeting Eliasson also stressed that: We are active solely within the framework of implementing the resolution, and our mission lies within this limit.

In connection with the news issued, and quoting sources close to the UN delegation which claimed that some progress had been achieved during the third round of these talks with Iraqi officials concerning the implementation of the resolution with the withdrawal of troops, Eliasson said: This piece of news is clearly a rumor and is not true at all.

Eliasson Cited on Peace Mission

LD1611172789 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's envoy at the end of his mission to Iran and Iraq, announced that in the extensive talks that he had had—concerning ways to end this condition of neither war nor peace, and to implement Resolution 598—with the presidents, foreign ministers, and other officials of the two countries, the two sides have made their positions fully clear to him, and he will be submitting a report of his work to the UN secretary general.

During this mission, which lasted 17 days and during which he visited Baghdad and Tehran six times, in the talks that he held with the representatives of the two countries Eliasson proposed certain solutions to advance the negotiations within the framework of Resolution 598, aiming at achieving a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region. He declared that he was pleased with the implementation of the cease-fire which came about as a result of the understanding and cooperation between Iran and Iraq and the personnel of the UN cease-fire observation group.

The UN secretary general's special envoy, emphasizing the maintenance of contacts with the representatives of the two countries in the coming weeks, also expressed the hope that the talks, at the level of the foreign ministers of the two countries, would take place in the month of December in New York, in the presence of the UN secretary general.

Velayati Comments on Peace Process

NC1711065689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr Velayati described the process of the Iran-Iraq peace talks and repeated the need for the full and precise implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 by saying: We will not deviate from our just rights in any way or under any conditions.

Mr Velayati, who was speaking in an interview with our correspondent yesterday, pointed out: The implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 is the only criterion for the establishment of a respectable peace between the two countries. In addition, the 1975 Algiers agreement, which was the fruit of 450 years of war between Iran and the Ottomans and Iran and Iraq, is unalterable and indisputable.

Talks To Resume in December

LD1711095189 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—Jan Eliasson representative of the U.N. secretary general wound up a 17-day visit to Iranian and Iraqi capitals and left Tehran for New York early Friday morning.

During his shuttle diplomacy aimed at breaking the deadlock on stalled Iran-Iraq peace talks Eliasson held six rounds of talks with Iranian and Iraqi officials. His talks centered on ways to resume the peace talks and full implementation of the U.N. resolution 598 for ending the Iraq-Iran war.

In a press release on Thursday issued by Eliasson's spokesman it was disclosed that Tehran-Baghdad peace talks at foreign ministers level will be resumed under the direct auspices of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in New York in December.

Syrian Official Criticizes Iraqi Regime

LD1411105889 Tehran IRNA in English 1002 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Damascus, Nov. 14. IRNA—A senior Syrian official said Monday that the Iraqi imposed war against Iran caused Arabs not to engage in a real confrontation with the Zionist regime.

Participating in a television round table on Iran-Iraq war, Dr. Fadl al-Ansari who is in charge of relations with Iraq in the ruling Ba'th Party, said "Iran started cooperation with Arab progressive forces immediately after the Islamic revolution's victory." But, he added, Saddam Husayn of Iraq tried, from the very beginning of the war, to turn the conflict into an Arab-Persian war. However, al-Ansari stressed, by adopting a just stand in this connection, Syria discarded Saddam's claims.

He also noted that at the outbreak of the war, leaders of Syria, Algeria and Kuwait embarked on a mediatory plan but that it was rejected by Saddam.

The Syrian official further commenting on the Lebanese crisis said Baghdad's collaboration with separatists in Lebanon and Michel 'Awn's attacks on residential areas were plots hatched by the Zionists but foiled thanks to the resistance of Lebanese and Syrian nationalist forces.

Larijani Commentary on Regional Cooperation

NC1711114489 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 9 Nov 89 p 20

[Dr Mohammad Javad Larijani commentary: "Tripartite ECO Cooperation and the Future of the Region"]

[Text] 1. Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey are bound together by various ties, and each one has its roots in the culture and religion of the pure and noble people of this region. What has separated these three great Islamic countries from each other is separation from the illustrious roots of Islam. Tripartite economic cooperation means the creation of a "200-million streng" market with a high population growth rate. Iran, which is one of the world's richest countries in energy resources, is like a priceless jewel in the region. These three countries have the most illustrious scholars who are on the front line of scientific and technical activities. Undoubtedly, tripartite cooperation can play an important role in the economic growth, development, and independence of these three countries.

2. Despite the extraordinary significance that this tripartite cooperation can have, its practical success has been extremely limited, and, especially this year, cooperation can be said to be at the point of death! Why? I think that there are some major reasons behind this.

First: The significance of regional cooperation has not been completely clarified for the three countries. In view of the region's racial-cultural structure, this cooperation can play an extremely significant and sensitive role in the stability and security of the region.

Second: Turkey's membership in NATO and the secular system in that Islamic country has always been a deterrent factor for public opinion in Islamic Iran. Despite this general atmosphere, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has always maintained its relations with Turkey on an extremely high level and this manifests Iran's foresightedness and the signifiance that it places on these relations.

The truth is that Turkey will always be Islamic and the cultural and religious ties that bind the two nations of Iran and Turkey are stronger than temporary troubles.

I think that the America plays an active role in the "maiming" of this tripartite cooperation because keeping the region distanced from Iran is America's current extensive and serious strategy.

America does not want serious attention given to the extent of this cooperation or to political or even regional security issues. When Zulfikar Ali Bhutto returned from the Izmir talks, he remarked with surprise that throughout the talks, the deceased shah impolitely prevented the propounding of any topic that concerned regional security and the political situation of the region. These remarks by Bhutto fully conform with America's gendarme theory.

3. In view of the future of East-West relations and the decreasing significance of both the Warsaw Pact and NATO, Turkey's membership in one of the world's potentially most powerful and more significant regional cooperations will have priceless political and security impacts. The Turkish Government's true refuge is Islam and the not too distant future will disclose that it should review its past policies. Therefore, striving to seriously develop tripartite cooperation and consolidateg this cooperation by basing it on the facts that have been revealed today and facts that will gradually be revealed in the future is a serious effort in our foreign policy. Tripartite cooperation should be revitalized at the present level and then be expanded to include other significant regional issues.

Commentary Assails Egyptian Minister's Remarks

NC1311225289 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] In an interview with the Kuwaiti press, Zaki Badr, interior minister of the Egyptian regime, expressed deep concern over the growth of Islamic movements in Egypt. He called on the leaders of the Arab states to cooperate and confront the Islamic trend. The interior minister of Mubarak's regime said: Members of the Islamic movement in Egypt have adopted the Islamic revolution as their course of action. The only way to confront this current is by the use of force and the reinforcement of the police apparatus. We could uproot Islamic fundamentalism by force of arms and the continuous suppression of Islamic groups.

These statements which Badr made to the Kuwaiti newspapers reveal how tense conditions are in Egypt. They also show the extent of the threat that the growing Islamic trend poses to Mubarak's regime. This regime has felt the strength and influence of the Islamic movement inside Egypt ever since the revolutionary execution of the traitor Al-Sadat. Therefore, the Egyptian regime lives in a whirlpool of loss of self-confidence. It fears that there might be a repetition of this revolutionary action at any moment. For many years, the Egyptian regime has been torturing and persecuting members of the Islamic movement and throwing them behind iron bars in prisons and detention camps. The regime feels frustration and despair because it has not been able to destroy this movement. Therefore, it feels that it must turn all Egypt into a big prison to confront this sacred Islamic current. The name of Islam and of the sharia runs in the veins of every citizen in every Egyptian city and village. The danger to Mubarak's regime has become real.

Therefore, this regime calls upon the Arab world to cooperate in order to confront the Islamic renaissance. This regime seeks to convey the mounting concern it feels to the other reactionary Arab states and warn them against the increasing Islamic vigilance. The medicine which Zaki Badr has prescribed to destroy the universal Islamic renaissance is the same which the buried shah applied in Iran to resist the Islamic revolution. The shah imagined that force and repression would enable him to destroy the phenomenon of the Islamic revolution, which is deep-rooted among the Iranian people. He ignored the fact that the spirit of faith and resolution is stronger than any weapon and any repression and intimidation.

Zaki Badr is now following the course of the shah, believing that by arrests, executions, and torture it might be possible to calm down the situation in Egypt and destroy the Islamic movement. However, experience has proved the opposite. The Islamic spirit is growing daily. Whenever the Egyptian regime arrests a Muslim revolutionary, several other sons of the people join the Islamic movement. Arab reaction in turn lives in a state of terror and fear of its peoples. These peoples have vanquished their fear and dread of the power of these governments. This is a matter which reaction has failed to understand so far.

The Islamic world, particularly the Egyptian Muslims, must adopt a firm stand on the insolence of the Mubarak regime's interior minister and his offense against the Islamic movement.

Former U.S. Secretary of War [as heard] Weinberger once announced that the Iranian people must be destroyed. However, soon afterward Washington was compelled to dismiss Weinberger from his post as a result of the firm revolutionary reaction of the Islamic Republic. This incident could teach Mubarak's interior minister a strong lesson when he announces that the roots of the Islamic renaissance must be torn out, because he is creating a very grave situation. The Egyptian Muslim revolutionaries will give the appropriate answer to Zaki Badr, because his threats increase their determination and resolution. Anyone who follows the path of al- Sadat will have no better fate than al-Sadat did. The Islamic renaissance will continue along its path, God willing. Time is not on the side of the enemies of Islam.

Velayati Receives FRG Official 12 Nov

LD1211150189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] The FRG Foreign Ministry's director-general for political affairs met with Foreign Minister Velayati this morning. He stressed the FRG Government's decision to expand its ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] on the basis of mutual respect, respect for one another's beliefs, and the Iranian nation's right to sovereignty. He also declared the readiness of the FRG Government and of Foreign Minister Genscher to support the implementation of UN Resolution 598.

Mr Velayati then declared the IRI's readiness to expand ties with the FRG on the basis of maintaining principles and mutual respect. He said that the important and rapid actions that must be taken toward the full implementation of Resolution 598 are the withdrawal of forces and the exchange of prisoners of war.

SFRY Industry Minister Heads Economic Delegation Arrives in Tehran 13 Nov

NC1311074489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] Mr Stepan Santo, SFRY federal secretary for industry and energy [title as heard], arrived in Tehran this morning to attend the eighth session of the two countries' joint economic committee and was welcomed by Mr Nurbakhsh, our country's minister of economic affairs and finance.

The Central News Unit reports that during his 1-week stay, the SFRY federal secretary for industry and energy,

who is heading his country's economic delegation to the said session, will hold talks with our country's high-ranking officials on joint commercial, scientific, and industrial cooperation.

After his arrival, the SFRY federal secretary for industry and energy answered questions put to him by a Central News Unit correspondent. Referring to the active presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of the SFRY in the Nonaligned Movement, he said: Yugoslavia attaches great significance to its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, hence its wish to expand bilateral relations and cooperation. He also described the two countries' relations as positive and stressed his country's interest in participating in this round of talks by expressing hope that by overcoming the existing problems in joint cooperation the two sides will achieve positive results.

The same report indicates that Mr Nurbakhsh, Iranian minister of economic affairs and finance, also pointed out that during the eighth session of the joint committee, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the SFRY will resort to new methods in an effort to increase trade between the two countries. He added: Free trade can be used as a means toward this end. Also, we intend to encourage trade between the two countries.

Referring to the fact that trade between the two countries is estimated at $400 million, Mr Nurbakhsh said: The SFRY purchases oil from Islamic Republic of Iran and we receive products, industrial machinery, technical services, and raw materials from that country. He added: During this session, we will also discuss setting of a specific percentage of trade between the two countries with the intention of exporting Iranian nonpetroleum products to the SFRY.

Iran-SFRY Joint Commission Meets

LD1411122189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] The eighth session of the Joint Commission of the finance ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was convened this morning with remarks made by Mr. Nurbakhsh, minister of economic affairs and finance, at the premises of the Finance Ministry.

Mr. Nurbakhsh pointed to the membership of Iran and Yugoslavia in the Nonaligned Movement and noted: The two countries, on the basis of this understanding, have always been after the expansion and strengthening of their relations. The minister of economic affairs and finance considered that last year's meeting between the leaders of the two countries was a great step in strengthening these relations and said: The two countries, in their encounters with many international problems, enjoy sharing a common stance and this understanding between the two countries has increased well the potential for expanding their relations. In another part of his remarks, pointing to the volume of commercial trade between Iran and Yugoslavia in the past years, he expressed hope that in the current sessions, all difficulties existing between he two sides with regard to an increase in trade exchanges and economic cooperation may be eliminated, and that industrial and agricultural cooperation between the two countries may expand in proportion to the extended and potential resources of the two parties.

The Yugoslav minister of industries and energy [as heard], thanking his Iranian host for the staging of these sessions, described as very good the trend of expanding economic and industrial cooperation between Iran and Yugoslavia and expressed the hope that relations between the two countries may expand more than before. He expressed his country's interest in buying more oil from the Islamic Republic of Iran and said that his country is ready to participate in various industrial, agricultural, and fisheries projects, the building of refineries, and also participation in the reconstruction of regions damaged by the imposed war.

Exchange of Goods Discussed

LD1611174189 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 16 IRNA—Visiting Yugoslavian Federal Secretary for Energy and Industry Stepan Santo today held talks with Commerce Minister 'Abd al-Hoseyn Vahaji on ways of removing obstacles in the way of Tehran-Belgrade economic relations.

The talks centred on joint investment methods, customs provisions and transport facilities for exchange of goods by air, land and sea.

Earlier on Wedneday, the Yugoslav official discussed industrial cooperation especially in the fields of pharmaceutics and foodstuf with Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh.

Naval Maneuvers Schedueld Mid-December

LD1311181189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] In order to maintain the readiness of the navy, the great Zolfaqar-5 maneuver will be staged in the Persian Gulf waters during the last days of Azar this year [mid-December]. Commodore Shamkhani, trhe commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who arrived in Bandar 'Abbas this afternoon to inspect the situation and activities in the first marine zone gave an interview to our reporter. He said: Despite the imposed war and foreign threats, thanks to God's mercy and the assistance of the committed and long-serving personnel, the navy of the armed forces is today more powerful and determined to serve the Islamic revolution.

He stated that the objective of his trip to Bandar 'Abbas is to review the particular features and resources necessary for staging the Zolfaqar-5 maneuver and also to

inspect current activities in the first marine zone, and added: The details of this maneuver will be announced soon.

Regarding coordination and the links between the Navy of the Armed Forces and the Guards Corps, he said: There are no particular boundaries nor limit to coordination between the Navy and Guards Corps, and this link and unity will blossom more in the future.

Minister Authorizes Provincial Mining Contracts

NC1411081689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] The minister of mines and metals, Mr Mahluji, announced that in order to further energize the minerals department as well as to absorb unused capital, the country's provinces have been authorized to sign agreements with applicants for the extraction and sale of more than 1,000 minerals.

According to the Central News Unit, he added: In this regard, effective measures have been taken, in view of the obligations of the minerals and industry sector, to provide the necessary facilities for investment, direct the capital, and ensure the safety of investment, as well as provide for the export of ornamental ores.

KEYHAN Urges Development of Domestic Industry

PM0711152289 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 2 Oct 89 p 2

[Editorial by Mohammad Reza Heydarzadeh: "Production Needs Support, Not Competition"]

[Text] The front page of KEYHAN on 30 September 1989 quoted an official as saying that we had bought 60 second-hand buses from Germany for the Tehran bus lines which were soon to arrive in the capital and that another 200 would join them before the end of the year.

This news comes just a few days after an official of one of the bus manufacturing companies announced at the Tehran International Trade Fair that an agreement for sales of the latest model of Iranian bus to European and Asian countries has just been signed in Tehran.

The question is this: If we have the ability to manufacture buses at home, of a quality that can compete on the world market, why should we import second-hand buses for use in our cities? Another question is this: If we are not capable of manufacturing the buses ourselves, why are we importing second-hand buses that have already been phased out of service in other countries?

To answer the first question we must say that in the bus manufacturing industry we now have several well-equipped factories whose standards meet world levels. On one case they are produced under license from Germany's Daimler-Benz. This production line provides jobs for thousands of people and boasts high production standards. In other words, for every dollar spent on importing spares for the buses manufactured here, we can make several dollars in revenue for the country, in terms of setting the wheels of industry moving, continued production, employment, added value, and so forth.

So importing buses on the pretext that they will last longer is unconvincing. For one thing, in the traffic-jammed streets of Tehran all buses move at the same speed, whether they are made here or outside. There is no room for arguments about engine speeds, speeds in general, or the capacity of the bus in this sort of traffic.

The second issue is that, alongside the heavy traffic, we see people lining up for buses for hours. For them it makes no difference whether the bus is of foreign or domestic manufacture. All they want is to reach their destination. They do not care about the model, the speed, the revolutions of the engine and so forth.

With regard to the second question, it must be said that if the country is not capable of producing buses of its own, it is best to buy the latest model straight from the factory. First, this bus will have a longer life span; and, second, it will give a better service to the passengers who use it.

Another point is that we do not want to lag behind European technology. Perhaps there is a chance that in a few years' time we will be able to replace Germany as the main second-hand bus market in the world.

One last word: Today, the government's policy is one of slow but steady growth in industry, instead of the previous policy of fast production for immediate use. To safeguard this, there must be an effort to set the wheels of industry moving in a correct manner, to get industry going, because it has cost this country billions of rials in investments.

It is unpleasant and uncomfortable for people to travel in second-hand buses manufactured abroad. It is to the people's advantage to set industry moving. It would benefit them to salvage the industry. Of course, we must bear in mind that the official decision to import these buses could have been made in order to resolve the issue in the short term. We must look beyond today and tomorrow. We must support local industry and use this as our role model.

KEYHAN Comments on Gasoline Rationing

PM0711152689 Tehran KEYNAN in Persian 4 Oct 89 p 18

[Editorial by 'Ali Nima: "Mr Presidednt, It Is Time To Make a Decision"]

[Text] It was announced in the news that gasoline rationing will soon stop and its distribution return to normal. According to the Oil Minister, the Economic Council is now discussing setting a price for a liter of gasoline.

On the other hand, with the election of Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani as president and the formation of a new cabinet, it was expected that the upward trend in prices would stop and that prices would come down. But they continue to rise.

Under present conditions, the importance of the government's role is stabilizing prices—especially those of important and strategic items such as fuels—is obvious to all. It seems that the government has two paths to choose from with regard to fixing a price for gasoline without rationing coupons in order to remove the restrictions on its distribution:

1. Setting the price at 30 rials per liter.

Setting this price is in effect a major step for Mr Rafsanjani's government toward controlling other prices. Such a move would indicate the government's power in controlling the economy, without its having to increase prices. Especially since in the past few days we have seen a rather unpleasant move in the government's setting a new price for milk, putting it on the "free" market and lifting government subsidies on milk. It was expected that, instead of raising prices together with production the government would raise production only, even if it meant losses for the dairy company, just to stabilize prices, which have rocketed in recent years.

Now the price of milk—so essential to children and older people—has doubled, without government subsidies. On the other hand, the price of shoes produced by government-owned factories has dropped by 15 percent. Of course it would have been better for the government to keep the price of both these commodities stable, as its first act in controlling prices, rather than increasing the price of milk and lowering the price of shoes. Thus the government could have given the profits from the shoe industry to the dairy company to make up for any possible losses. The need for such a move is obvious if we take into account the number of consumers buying shoes from government factories, compared to the people using milk.

2. Increasing the price of gasoline, putting it on the open market at 60 rials per liter.

With regard to this choice we must say that gasoline is now sold on the open market at 60 rials per liter, but that this price has always been said to be temporary. On the other hand, actually setting the price of gasoline at 60 rials per liter would in effect mean doubling the price of this commodity. If that happened, it would be regarded as another upward trend in prices.

Setting the price of gasoline at 60, 50, or even 40 rials per liter means the government's raising the price by 30, 20 or 10 rials, respectively. Past experience shows that such a move would have an immediate and serious effect on the price of all sorts of others services, ranging from transport services to agricultural produce.

In other words, bearing in mind past experience and the current status of the country's political-economic situation, the new government must make a serious effort to show its earnestness regarding the setting of prices as a top priority: This includes setting the price of gasoline. The president must now keep an eye on the rising trend in the price of gasoline, this important and strategic commodity, to stop the continuation of this trend, which would affect both the people and the government.

* Majlis Amends Elections, Islamic Councils Laws

90OI0030A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
26 Oct 89 p 5

[Text] Legal and Majlis Department—Yesterday's Majlis session convened under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi and continued under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemian.

After readings of verses from the glorious words of God, deputies Mahmudi of Golpaygan, Partovi of Saqqez, and Rahbari of Razan va Famin spoke as pre-agenda speakers.

Then, Mr Karrubi offered condolences on the passing of Ayatollah Mirza Javad Aqa Aqatehrani. After Mr Karrubi's talk, memos from the deputies to the nation's executive officials were read, then the Majlis began its agenda.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the first item on the agenda was continued consideration of the proposal to amend Article 30 of the Majlis Elections Law, which was approved by the deputies.

The second agenda item was the proposal to amend some articles from the National Islamic Councils Law, which was approved in its entirety.

The third agenda item was the proposal to append an article to the Public Service Law as a repeat article. Due to the lack of time, continued consideration of this was postponed to the next session.

This report states that at the conclusion of yesterday's session Mr Feda'i-'Araqi asked the minister of petroleum a question, which Mr Aqazadeh answered immediately. Below are printed the remarks of the pre-agenda speakers, the deputies' memos to the executive officials, and the detailed proceedings.

The first pre-agenda speaker was Mr Seyyed Abutaleb Mahmudi, the deputy from Golpaygan and Khansar. During his speech, he said: In 10 years of experience it has become clear to everyone that a state economy and an all-powerful government have produced nothing other than significant damage to the deprived people and the nation's economy.

If goods are purchased through government channels and then distributed through those channels, and at the same time if in this process undesirable goods are purchased at a price higher than the real value, then

divided among distributors who give the people more than they want and sell what the people do not want on the free market at the highest prices, the pressure and damage caused by this falls on the shoulders of deprived and low-income people. A great deal of capital has fled the country, some of it has remained inactive in the hands of the people, and the pressure of inflation has increased. Thank God, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government is fully aware of the significance of this, and has taken and continues to take effective measures every day with this in mind. This idea no longer has any supporters, although those who have been profiting handsomely from this bounty may be showing concern and mourning its passing.

He added: I will now offer proposals to aid our crisis-ridden economy:

1. Those who think in that way must not be in key positions, especially in importing, exporting, and distribution.
2. Similar and duplicate organizations should be cut out of the current budget, which is back-breaking, as soon as possible, and new domestic loans should be reduced.
3. In the Ministry of Agriculture's foreign exchange and rial budget in the 5-Year Plan, unconditional authorization must be given for the procurement of seeds, fertilizer, and agricultural machinery to the extent that there is no free market availability for these items, as well as to import agricultural implements and parts.
4. It is lamentable that, in these 10 years, our non-petroleum exports have never reached a billion dollars. This great and vast nation with all of these resources has not even reached the level of small nations with fewer resources, and because of inappropriate severity and dizzying bureaucracies, the apparatus of smuggling has flourished while foreign exchange has been converted to smuggled goods on the other side of the border, sometimes to narcotics, and sometimes coming into the country or else remaining unused outside the country. I therefore propose that the private sector be authorized to be more active in exports through the elimination of crippling laws and bureaucracy and that a more suitable foreign exchange contract be applied to export goods so that the people will be able to spend the government's foreign exchange and retain a share for themselves as well.
5. The young generation is passing through its crisis period. On the one hand, more than 10 percent of them have no way of getting into a university, and for most of them there are no opportunities for work advancement. Marriage is also almost impossible for most of them, and if timely thinking is not done those problems may create a political burden.
6. It is necessary to attract specialist manpower from outside the country, and restrictions with little or no meaning that obstruct this must be removed. Recently, the respected minister of health, treatment, and medical education has taken praiseworthy measures.
7. Capital from people outside the country can significantly help our economy. In the same regard, he added: With some easy regulations the nation's capital, which has so far been used by foreign nations and governments, could be gathered and employed for a sound economy. The principle of neither East nor West is the basis of our independence and revolution. However, our relations with every country but two or three and our use of foreign resources, if the limitations and conditions are right, will not harm the principle of neither East nor West. The large countries have no dependence on others. Whenever there is use of foreign resources for reconstruction or investment, it must not be branded as a loss of the revolution. The important thing that must be seen is who has the foreign resources that are being consumed in the country? What is clear is that our financial resources are not currently sufficient to rebuild the country, manage it, invest in factories, and procure the construction materials needed for them to work at full capacity. What is the damage caused by stagnation in the work and the factories and delays in reconstruction? The circumstances are far greater than the damage caused by using foreign resources.

He noted: Excessive urban population is a blight on the country, especially Tehran. It is the cancer of Tehran. The mistaken policies of the past, where we give most of the resources and subsidies to the urban population, have done nothing for us but create a consumer society, reduce production day by day, and reduce the quality and quantity of production work.

Mr Mahmudi mentioned the measures taken by the judicial authorities and the hopes of the people in the work of this power. He said: The hope is that His Holiness Ayatollah Yazdi, regarded by everyone as a sound and pious man, will be able to bring about a change that is worthy of the Islamic government within this great branch of the government.

He then noted: I have no objections to the questions that the dear brother deputies have asked of the respected minister of justice, but I can say that if 'Ali (peace be upon him) had been an Islamic judge and if a Christian woman had come to him to complain about something she would certainly have been received, and if she had been right the matter would have been pursued. "There was in the Prophet of God an excellent example for you." [Koranic quotation] This illustrates the depth and justness of Islamic jurisprudence. The people expect their deputies to speak with one voice and to join hands in sensitive circumstances, without rejecting each other, and solve the problems of the people and the government. They do not want factionalism, they do not accept conflict, and they are paying full attention to the work of the Majlis and the positions taken. They know who is on the path of service and who, God forbid, in on the path of sabotage, and they have more or less shown their own reactions and their reactions to each other. We are told in a Tradition of the Prophet that he said, "If God wanted to punish a nation he would reduce the work and increase the justice."

In conclusion, the deputy for the people of Golpaygan and Khansar also submitted memos concerning his electoral district to the nation's executive officials.

The second pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's public Majlis session was Mr Mohammad 'Ali Partovi from the Saqqez and Baneh electoral district.

He mentioned the passing of Unity Week and said: All Muslims have made their own proof of the noble verse from the Koran, "And hold fast all together by the rope which God stretches out for you, and be not divided among yourselves," and they refrain from fragmentation, which causes weakness. They are constantly together, for the hand of God is with the group. Refrain from dispersing and fragmentation, which is the ruin of a human being and a gain for Satan.

Elsewhere in his talk, Mr Partovi mentioned the president's trip to Kordestan. He said: Near the end of Unity Week, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani went to the deprived and suffering land of Kordestan, and this is something praiseworthy and deserving of thanks. The almost unprecedented welcome by the zealous people of Kordestan for their beloved president shows their abundant concern for Islam and the revolution, and their extensive presence on the platform of the revolution and their unity with the the other brothers have defied all of the imperialists equations. Let the imperialists and their agents know that the Muslim people of Kordestan have understood the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and that they remain loyal to it. Along with the other brothers, they are striving to preserve Islam, the revolution, and its achievements. They are shedding their blood and making abundant sacrifices.

Let the Muslim Kurdish people know that officials will repair all the damage, nurture talents to maturity, and make use of Kordestan's virgin resources. With the strengthening of the current university, the establishment of a Sunni university, and the construction of a railroad and a natural gas system, the destruction by the government of the idolaters will be wiped out of the province.

The Saqqez and Baneh deputy noted: The establishment of industrial, agricultural, and teacher-training vocational schools, attention to industries, and the transfer of one or several of the nation's large and national industries to Kordestan will, to an extent, reduce the area's deprivation. God willing, under the shadow of the Islamic government of Iran, we will have a prosperous and revolutionary Kordestan.

At the conclusion of his remarks, Mr Partovi asked the respected interior minister to expedite the elevation of the position of brother Moqaddam to supervisor of the governorship of Kordestan, with the support of numerous letters, commission letter 161, and support from the endowment of the respected Friday imams of Kordestan, the clergy, the great families of martyrs, the Teacher's Islamic Society, and other groups.

And peace.

Ahmad Rahbari, Deputy for Razan, Famin, and Shara'

The third and final pre-agenda speaker was Mr Ahmad Rahbari, deputy for the people of Razan, Famin, and Shara'. During his talk, he mentioned the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Mostafa Khomeyni, offering congratulations and condolences. He said: It is incumbent upon the groups in the Islamic nation to seek out and keep alive the way of those dear ones, and to preserve the values of the revolution with all their being.

He added: The recent destruction by the Zionists of the Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem, on the pretext of building a place of worship, is condemned by all Muslims, and it is incumbent upon Muslim nations and the governments of Muslim countries, as a unified Islamic nation, to condemn this repulsive Zionist act and to take political measures to destroy these usurpers.

Mr Rahbari then mentioned the anniversary of the takeover of the spy nest and World Anti-Imperialism Day (13 Aban [4 November]). He said: Our society is an Islamic society. It believes in the criteria of unity, and if the necessary attention is not given to the cultural dimension, this will also have an effect on beliefs.

As examples of this matter of lack of attention to what happens in the environment of youth and a proper approach to the social deviations that threaten society's future, he mentioned the subject of propaganda and propaganda methods in the public media. He noted: Some of these methods are Western and non-Islamic. They promote a consumer culture and a false emphasis on appearances and assigning value to empty topics, and he gave as examples of these things the propaganda illustrations in some of the magazines.

He added: The inclination of magazines, which is weakening the values of the revolution, is to publish articles by people and popular figures and to promote and interview controversial individuals. For some magazines, a sense of responsibility demands more precise supervision by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Mr Rahbari then discussed the programs of SEDA VA SIMA [The Islamic Republic's broadcasting company]. He said: Unfortunately, SEDA VA SIMA, especially SIMA-YE JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, are creating improper social behavior in our youth and adolescents, instead of promoting the proper approach to life in society.

In the same regard, he added: Television films and serials have had and are having a role in creating improper veiling, and it is necessary to deal with such instances properly and decisively. I issued a memo dated 8/8/1368 [30 October 1989] concerning the campaign against bad veiling and the sale of goods that encourage corruption, and unfortunately after 8 months their answer to me is that a study of the existing situation has

not revealed any kind of bad veiling or sale of goods that encourage corruption in Zarand District and its affiliated villages.

He said: I sent my memo to the Interior Ministry concerning the urban dimension, especially Tehran, but their answer concerned the rural areas in my electoral district. The situation in Tehran's streets, if you notice Vali 'Asr Street for example has lost its beauty, and it is necessary that you take this matter seriously. Priority must be given to cultural matters in the Five-Year Plan as the foundation of other matters, and we must give the necessary resources to strengthen culture. Society is not visible enough in the plan.

He added: The matter of consumption and the lifestyle of the Muslim people is another matter attracting the deep concern of everyone, as an important matter that must be considered at the forefront of planning.

In conclusion, the speaker also submitted memos to the nation's executive officials.

Memos From the Deputies to the Nation's Executive Officials

Mr Faregh, Dezful deputy: To the minister of construction jihad, concerning expediting electrical service for Band-e Hajat; to the Plan and Budget Organization, concerning the insertion of the Dezful silo project in the 5-Year Plan.
Mr Morsali, Abhar deputy: To the ministers of construction jihad and heath, treatment, and medical education, with regard to speeding the rural water projects for the villages of Nuri, Qel'e-ye Rahmat Abad, and Eyvanak and completion of the water reservoirs for the villages of 'Amid Abad, and Al Gozir; to the minister of roads and transport, concerning quicker asphalting of the Abhar-Qeydar road; to the minister of education and training, concerning attention to the state of education and training in Soltaniyeh, and the departments of admission and security in Abhar's education and training system.
Mr Me'mari, Ahar deputy: To the Ministry of Mines and Metals, concerning the fact that extraction is not proceeding rapidly at the Naflin mines, and concerning the establishment of an aluminum factory at Ahar.
Mr Hoseynzadeh, Darreh Gaz deputy: To the minister of petroleum, concerning speed in the construction of the Darreh Gaz fuel storage facility; the minister of post and telegraph, concerning speed in the implementation of the Darreh Gaz gendarmerie telephone system.
Mr Nariman, Babol deputy: To the minister of health, treatment, and medical education, calling for careful attention to the selection of a site to build an antibiotics factory in Mazandaran.
Mr Rowhanizadeh, Qa'emshahr and Savad Kuh deputy: To the Physical Training Organization, concerning the establishment and reconstruction of Qa'emshahr's physical fitness area and resources; to the construction jihad minister and the minister of roads and transport, please carry out all of the projects enacted for 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] for Qa'emshahr and Savad Kuh; to the interior minister and the national police headquarters, concerning the opening of police offices for Zir-e Ab and Savad Kuh.
Mr Qoreyshi, Khomeyn deputy: To the minister of agriculture, concerning the shortage of veterinary medicine in Khomeyn.
Mr Kazem Donian, Amol and Larijan deputy: To the Iranian Topography Organization, expedite sending the 1000th map of the city of Amol; to the minister of energy, expedite implementation of the Balur town power project.
Mr Taheri, Maragheh's deputy: To the minister of housing and urban development, concerning completion of the review of the comprehensive map of the city of Maragheh; to the minister of energy, concerning turning the 'Alaviyan building construction project over to a contractor.
conversion of the independent civil court of Bostanabad to a Ministry of Justice court.

Details on Proceedings

The first item on the agenda was continued consideration of the report from the Councils and Domestic Affairs Commission concerning the plan to amend Article 30 of the Majlis Election Law, enacted 12/9/1362 [28 December 1983]. Since there were four speakers in opposition and three speakers in favor of this plan at the previous session, Mr Musavi Tabrizi and Mr Akrami spoke in favor of the plan and Mr Feda'i spoke against it. After the commission and the government expressed their views, the entire plan was approved by the deputies.

Third Agenda Item

The third agenda item was the report from the First Council of the Joint Defense and Domestic Affairs Commission, concerning the rejection of the plan to append an article as a supplementary article to the National Public Service Law. Mr Haj Nasseri spoke in opposition, and Mr Shafa'i spoke in support of the plan. However, due to the lack of time, the continuation of the task was deferred to the next session.

Mr Feda'i's Question to the Minister of Petroleum

After the third agenda item, Mr Feda'i 'Araqi, Arak deputy, asked a question of Mr Aqazadeh, minister of petroleum, as follows:
1—Are the rules and regulations for buying in the Ministry of Petroleum different than those of the rest of the government of the Islamic Republic, and please explain this matter if you can.
2—If this is not the case, why isn't the information that has been given by this ministry precise and in accordance with reality?

An example of that is the buildings purchased on Ostad Motahhari Street and in other places, at prices much higher than the appraised value.

Then Mr Aqazadeh, minister of petroleum, answered: Mr Feda'i is referring to a building that was purchased in

Arak. I ask the brothers to take note of the point that if there is another procedure that we ought to follow there they should propose it to us.

We are carrying out several very large projects in Arak. One is the Arak Petrochemical Project, which will provide the nation with about $400 million in foreign exchange when it is put into service in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992].

Another project is the Arak Refinery, and when it is put into service the major part of our current imports of oil byproducts will be stopped.

Continuing, the minister of petroleum added: The brother deputies know how many problems there are in carrying out a project. The city of Arak is a small area, and in view of the fact that foreigners will be coming to this area and that we must be centralized at one site so that God forbid this would not cause social problems in the future, we bought a hotel in Arak, so that we could house the foreigners there in temporary housing until our own houses are completed, and afterwards we will use the same hotel for our own experts who are working in Arak.

Answering the question about buying the hotel at a high price, Mr Aqazadeh said: A price 50 million tomans higher than what we paid is now being offered for that same building, yet we bought that site for 10 million tomans below the ministry of justice's appraisal.

After the minister of petroleum completed his remarks, Mr Feda'i spoke: I thank Mr Aqazadeh for his answers, of course he did not answer my question. He said: I personally support gas distribution, technology, expansion, and progress. My point is that when one has an abundance of resources, and when one has money and resources, should he do whatever he wants to do at any price? Offering statistics and figures concerning the Ministry of Petroleum's purchases, the Arak deputy said: My question is, on what authority do you make the purchases you make? For both you and the government companies, this money comes from the government and the public treasury.

In his repeat answer to Mr Feda'i, Mr Aqazadeh said: Is it a violation when the official Ministry of Justice appraiser comes and sets a prices and I buy lower than the appraiser's price? In answer to Mr Feda'i, I say that this transaction adheres to all of the company's regulations and the nation's existing rules, and no violation has taken place.

This report states that at the conclusion of Mr Feda'i's question the answer was referred to the commission so the matter could be studied there with sufficient documentation and the result could be given to the Majlis.

The public session of the Majlis ended at 1205, and the next session was set for Sunday of next week.

Jannati Presents Qom Friday Prayers 10 Nov

LD1011222889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The unity-inspiring politico-religious rites of the Friday prayers in Qom, in the presence of a vast number of the city's monotheist people, was held at the Friday prayer site of Qom under the leadership of Ayatollah Jannati. [passage omitted]

Condemning the measure adopted by the U.S. Justice Secretary in empowering the U.S. secret police to arrest individuals condemned by U.S. courts in all the world's countries, the acting Friday prayer leader of Qom said: Even if that measure is to be enforced against real criminals in other countries, it would be a blatant violation of the world countries and nations and as such it is against international law.

Referring to the action by a number of students who have occupied one of the buildings belonging to the Mobilization unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Acting Friday Prayer leader of Qom said: Even if right be on their side, nobody has the right to take the law in his own hands without applying to the judicial authorities. [passage omitted]

Editorial Views 'Day of Struggle'

NC1311134389 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 4 Nov 89 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "The Day of Struggle Against Oppression, Aggression, and Arrogance"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Events show that from the first, we had not taken an oath to be hostile toward any specific country or government on the other side of our borders. Our oath was and is an oath of hostility toward oppression, arrogance, and aggression. Any government or power which, during this period or any other period, resorted or resorts to aggression, hegemonism, and arrogance becomes our enemy and the target of the Iranian nation's rage, be it the American, British, or any other government.

Therefore, those who think we are fighting against the American Government uselessly are truly thinking in vain! The least we can say is that people with such thoughts are making a mistake. It is the colonialist and arrogant U.S. regime that intervened in a dastardly way in our country in the events of 19 August [coup attempt in 1953] and 3 June [street demonstrations in 1963] and which played a great role in the approval of the capitulation law and in the imposition of the so-called White Revolution, the disintegration of our country's economy, making our life dependent on foreign powers, crushing movements, and imposing dependent and corrupt governments on us.

This was U.S. policy both during the revolution and after its victory and during and after the war. And the U.S. Government continues to be hostile toward the Iranian

nation and government. How should one feel toward an arrogant and bullying power which so blatantly and officially issues a law on the arrest and even execution of any U.S. opponent in any part of the world?

Commentary on 'Confrontation' Among 'Rival Camps'

LD0711222289 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Dear listeners! Please pay attention to our commentary on the differences among various camps inside the regime in connection with the anniversary of 4 November.

Indications were surfacing some weeks ago that 4 November was to become the scene for staging an open and serious confrontation between the rival camps inside the regime. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who intended to prevent anti-U.S. moves as far as possible, in line with his foreign policy which aims for closer ties with America, faced serious difficulties with the ceremonies staged on Saturday, First of all, he was faced with a letter from 145 radical Majlis deputies who sought extensive ceremonies on the day. In an effort to stage the whole thing without too much hue and cry within the walls of the U.S. Embassy, the regime's information ministry announced that simultaneous with the anniversary of the U.S. Embassy occupation, a press conference would be held for individuals accused of spying for America. The conference was held in the U.S. Embassy compound. Khamene'i, on the other hand, in order to reaffirm his position as leader of the regime vis-a-vis America, spoke to a gathering of students. He stated that the stands of the Islamic republic on global arrogance were not seasonal and tactical.

During the next few days, the so-called radical camp tried to front the Khaneme'i-Hashemi-Rafsanjani clique with a fait accompli. They therefore invited the people to participate in street marches in Tehran. It was under these circumstances, and especially due to fear of anti-U.S. moves, that Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Khamene'i entered the arena with their peculiar Mullah style tactics. Khamene'i visited Khomeyni's tomb, as well as the graves of those killed on 28 June 1981 [when a number of prominent figures of the Islamic Republic Party were killed by a bomb blast]. In this way he tried to overshadow the 4 November ceremonies with alternative ceremonies in Behesht-e Zahra. Hashemi-Rafsanjani in turn arranged meetings with officials from Khuzestan province in order to talk to them about the reconstruction of war-hit areas. By posing the issue of reconstructing war-hit areas as one of the strongest methods of struggle against global arrogance, in effect he revealed his true position with regard to the moves followed by the rival camp on that day. However, the open confrontation by radicals against the policies of Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Khamene'i was well and truly revealed during the demonstrations themselves and their accompanying slogans and resolutions.

In his speech on the day, Mohtashemi paid tribute to the occupation of the embassy and spoke about the impact that 4 November had on other Islamic movements, such as in Lebanon and Palestine. In this way, he stressed the continuation of anti-U.S. stands. The 14-point resolution issued after the demonstration quoted Khomeyni on the necessity of continuing the alert and vigilant struggle against America. The resolution further openly put Hashemi-Rafsanjani's stands into question. It declared that one must be vigilant that during the country's reconstruction the country should not fall into the trap of the West's economic domination. [passage omitted]

In this way, it can be seen that despite the efforts of Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Khamene'i, the moderate faction is facing serious problems in its foreign policy, as is evident in the policies regarding Lebanon and Saudi Arabia. As announced later, four peple who had been arrested for spying for America were executed. Those executions served to add to the dimensions of the whole affair.

All these events show that within the general discourse of propaganda and anti-U.S. displays, the radical forces were able to advance their policies, thereby putting the ruling camp under even more severe pressure in relation to the implementation of its programs.

Pakistan

Mujahidin Arms Dump Explodes 15 Nov; 40 Killed

BK1611142889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1417 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Nov 16 (AFP)—An Afghan rebel munitions dump in northern Pakistan blew up late Wednesday [15 November] killing at least 40 people, police said Thursday.

Ishtiaq Ahmed, deputy police commissioner for the northern Pakistan town of Chitral, said police had already found 18 bodies but the number of dead would exceed 40.

Eight people were hospitalised in critical condition, he added.

The string of explosions completely destroyed the munitions dump, located at Garam Chechma some 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Chitral on the border with Afghanistan's Badakshan Province, police said.

It was used by the Jamiat-e Eslami-e faction to supply the forces of Ahmed Shah Mas'ud, one of the top commanders of the Afghan mujahidin fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul, according to a spokesman for the faction.

Mujahidin sources speculated that a rocket fired by Kabul's troops across the border may have sparked the conflagration, but the cause remained uncertain.

The first powerful blast was heard around 4:00 P.M. (1100 GMT) Wednesday and was followed by a series of explosions that lasted well into the evening, witnessess said.

Rockets that shot out of the flaming depot seriously damaged a bank, a hospital, some shops and many other buildings in Garam Chechma, and rained on residential neighborhoods for several hours, the witnesses added.

The explosions and hail of projectiles killed hundreds of sheep, goats and cattle, they added.

Rescue teams equipped with tents, blankets and medicine rushed to the scene while hundreds of village residents fled into the surrounding mountains.

"It was like Ojiri Camp," said one villager, referring to the April 10, 1988 explosion of a Pakistani arms depot at Rawalpindi that killed several hundred people.

The Jamiat-e Eslami-e spokesman refused to speculate on the cause of the explosion, but he acknowledged that it could hurt commander Mas'ud's military operations.

Mr. Mas'ud, a 37-year-old ethnic Tajik whose forces control much of northeastern Afghanistan, was dubbed the "Lion of Panshir" after scoring victories over the Soviet troops before their withdrawal from Afghanistan in February.

But he suffered a serious blow last summer when 30 of his fighters, including six top lieutenants, were massacred by the rival Hezb-e Eslami-e faction of radical Afghan fundamentalist Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Informed sources in Peshawar said Mr. Mas'ud, who commands some 9,000 men, was preparing new operations against Afghan President Najibullah's troops when the depot exploded.

Islamabad Reports Destruction

BK1611154689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] After a series of explosions, a mujahidin arms dump was destroyed in Garam Chashma locality, 50 km north of Chitral, yesterday. According to police sources, 18 bodies have so far been recovered from the debris.

Bhutto Orders Immediate Inquiry

BK1711075089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has directed the relevant authorities to hold an immediate inquiry into yesterday's blast at an Afghan refugee camp near Garam Chashma in Chitral and to provide immediate assistance to the affected people. The prime minister expressed deep sorrow and anguish over the loss of lives in the blast. She expressed sympathy with the bereaved families.

Further Reportage on Visit of PRC Premier Li Peng

Li on Sanctions Against China

BK1611164689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Excerpts] China will provide Pakistan with a nuclear power plant of 300,000 kilowatts to help meet its energy needs. This was stated by the Chinese prime minister, Mr Li Peng, at a news conference in Islamabad today. [Passage omitted]

Asked if Pakistan could play a role in mending fences between China and the United States, the Chinese prime minister said it is for Pakistan to see if it could promote or facilitate the matter.

He said that although the economic sanctions imposed by the West against China have created certain economic difficulties for his country, these would also adversely affect the interests of those countries imposing the sanctions. Mr Li Peng was of the view that the sanctions were politically motivated to force China to change its socialistic system. He categorically stated that the Chinese people would never submit to such pressure.

Regarding recent developments in East European countries, particularly in the German Democratic Republic, he said China, like other countries, is concerned but would have to wait and see whether these developments are positive or negative.

Nusrat Bhutto Evaluates Visit

BK1711083089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Senior Federal Minister Begum Nusrat Bhutto said the visit of Chinese Premier Li Peng to Pakistan has helped in further consolidating the friendship between the two countries.

Speaking at a dinner she hosted in honor of the Chinese premier in Islamabad yesterday, she said we can never forget the assistance of the PRC. She said the decisions made in the last 3 days will bring fruitful results in the years to come. [Passage omitted]

Li Departs for Dhaka 17 Nov

BK1711072289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Chinese Premier Li Peng left Islamabad for Dhaka a short while ago at the end of his 4-day official visit to Pakistan. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto bade farewell to him. The Chinese premier was given a traditional send-off.

Kashmiris Plan Force for Autonomy From India

BK1711095689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0935 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 17 (AFP)—Kashmiris living in Pakistan have decided to raise a guerrilla force to fight for autonomy of India's only Moslem-majority state, the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported.

The settlers from the state, which has been disputed by Pakistan and India since the two countries' first war in 1948, have formed the Kashmir Liberation Movement (KLM), it said.

KLM convener Aamir Zaman Taer told a news conference in the Punjab capital Lahore that his group was not satisfied with efforts by other political parties to gain autonomy for the Indian-held part of the Kashmir Valley.

"We have formed the new party for mobilizing the Kashmiri youth to come out and take part in a practical crusade," Mr. Taer said.

KLM will organize a guerrilla force to achieve this objective, he added.

He said the KLM aimed to establish an Islamic state in Kashmir. Its accession to Pakistan, he said, would be subject to enforcement of a "real Islamic order" in Pakistan.

Kashmir remains a bone of contention between India and Pakistan, which have fought three wars since partition of the subcontinent following independence from Britain in 1947.

Pakistan demands implementation of a United Nations report calling for a plebiscite in Kashmir to determine the preference of the largely Moslem population.

India has turned down the proposal, saying that the situation has changed since the 1948 U.N. Commission's recommendations.

Prime minister Rajiv Gandhi said at a news conference here last December that India had held three elections in the state in which people had freely expressed their choice.

Pakistan television, quoting reports reaching here from the state capital Srinagar late Thursday [16 November], said Moslem militants had asked Kashmiris to boycott next week's parliamentary polls in India amid a frenzy of Hindu-Moslem violence in which more than 200 people have been killed.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's ruling and opposition parties have planned a countrywide protest on Friday to condemn a plan by Hindu fundamentalists to erect a Hindu temple near the 16th-century Babri Mosque in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya on land claimed by Moslems.

Officials Meet Turkish Air Force Commander

BK1311135289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] The commander of the Turkish Air Force, General Safter Necioglu, today met the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Admiral Iftikhar Ahmad Sirohey, at the joint staff headquarters in Rawalpindi. They discussed matters of bilateral interest.

The Turkish air chief also held discussions on professional matters with the chief of the air staff, Air Chief Marshal Hakimullah, at the air headquarters in Islamabad. He also visited the PAF [Pakistan Air Force] Academy at Risalpur and the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex at Kamra.

Sri Lanka

Radio Reports Appeal by Deceased JVP Leader

BK1611113389 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Nov 89

[Text] The leader of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, Rohana Wijeweera, had appealed to the younger generations and groups engaged in violent activities to cease all violence and act peacefully at this difficult stage. This appeal is contained in a statement made by Mr Wijeweera when he was in custody of the armed forces before his death. Mr Rohana Wijeweera, observing that the country was today under foreign threat and that many lives have been destroyed, had appealed to all his party members in office to find a peaceful solution by changing the anti-democratic situation that had arisen in the country. [words indistinct] appeal from the JVP leader to the youth to take action for the prosperity of the country by pursuing educational activities in schools and universities and to overcome foreign domination, is also contained in the statement.

Pointing out that he was taken into custody by the security forces at Ulapane in Kandy on the 12th of this month, Mr Wijeweera said that he had made his statement after discussions with the officials of the army. Finally, he had pointed out that he was making the statement with the intention of evolving a system for establishing peace in the country.

Proposed Budget Reflects Deficit, Higher Taxes

BK1611011889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1707 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Colombo, Nov 15 (AFP)—Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunga on Wednesday presented Sri Lanka's proposed fiscal budget for 1990, providing for a deficit of 1.05 billion U.S. dollars with steep increases in import taxes on cars and luxury goods.

The budget, which is expected to pass in Parliament, calls for 2.58 billion dollars in expenditures for the fiscal

year ending December 1990 and 1.52 billion dollars in revenues, leaving a gap lower than this year's deficit of 1.66 billion dollars.

Mr. Wijetunge, who also holds the finance portfolio, unveiled a package of proposals in Parliament allowing for 545 million dollars in foreign and concessionary loans and 462 million dollars in domestic borrowings to cover the deficit.

"It would appear that a good part of the expenditure will have to be met essentially through borrowing locally as well as from abroad," he said.

He said that wheat flour, sugar, kerosene, diesel and fuel oil would be exempt from the planned five to 15 percent jump in import and manufacturing taxes.

A 20 to 40 per cent increase in turnover taxes was clamped on the import, sale and manufacture of luxury and semi-luxury goods, which will bring in an additional 22.5 million dollars in revenue, he said.

It will be supplemented with 3.25 million dollars from a 25 per cent surcharge on the import of cars and liquor and a 10 percent hike in overseas telecommunications charges which will net 1.87 million dollars.

His proposals include a five dollar salary hike for public servants earning less than 50 dollars a month and a hike in the personal tax exemption limit from 675 dollars a year to 750 dollars.

"Despite the financial difficulties the government now faces, the president has decided that at least the low income earners in the public and local government services should be given a wage increase to ameliorate their hardship," Mr. Wijetunge said.

Prime Minister Returns From Visit to Iran

BK1311120289 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge returned home yesterday at the end of his official tour of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The nine-member delegation led by the prime minister also included Minister of Trade and Shipping A.R. Mansoor.

During the visit, members of the delegation participated in the second meeting of the Sri Lanka-Iran Joint Commission on Economic and Technological Cooperation.

The sessions held in Tehran were jointly opened by Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge and the vice president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hasan Habibi. The commission focused on ways of developing trade, economic, and cultural cooperation between the two countries. Official sources described the meeting as very cordial and friendly, strengthening the already existing cordial relations.

Mr Wijetunge also held friendly talks with the Iranian president, Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and the speaker of parliament.

The Iranian Embassy sources in Colombo described the visit of the Sri Lankan delegation as the first high-level contact between the two countries since the Islamic revolution in Iran.

'Tamil National Army' Attacks Police Stations

BK1711062089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0604 GMT 17 Nov 89

[Text] Colombo, Nov 17 (AFP)—Tamil militants attacked four police stations early Friday [17 November] killing at least two policemen, wounding 26 and losing ten of their own men in the country's multi-ethnic eastern region, military officials said.

Members of the Tamil National Army (TNA) swooped [down] on the police stations in Sammanthurai, Kalmunai, Chavalakadai and Akkaraipattu in eastern Ampara district in simultaneous pre-dawn raids, the officials said.

One army officer attached to the Kalmunai police station also died in the attack, they said.

The Tamil National Army is a 4,000-strong illegal Tamil military force sponsored by the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) which controls the regional council of the Tamil majority Northeastern Province.

It replaced the same number of Indian troops who left Ampara district on October 24 ahead of a total pullout of an Indian peacekeeping force from Sri Lanka by the end of the year.

The district was also the scene of a bloodbath earlier this month when Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil guerillas, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), overran two TNA camps.

The LTTE has accused India of creating a huge paramilitary force to fight the Tigers after Indian troops leave.

Police Station Attacks Confirmed

BK1711091689 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0755 GMT 17 Nov 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 17 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Armed militants suspected to be members of the illegal Tamil National Army attacked Samanthurai, Akkaraipattu, Chavalkadai and Kalmunai police stations, in the eastern province, a government communique states.

The communique also states that EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] and ENDLF

[Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front] militants fired at the Batticaloa police station. Police returned fire and repulsed the attack.

In Ampara, unknown persons shot and killed Joseph, a member of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], suspected to be an EPRLF act.

Premadasa Welcomes All to Democratic Process

BK1211111289 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Excerpt] The government's intention is not to do injustice to any section of the population in the island. It has not recognized racial, religious, or any of the differences. President Premadasa who made this observation at the opening of the Welikanda new town yesterday, also assured that the benefits of the Mahaweli [area development] scheme would not be limited to only a section or a race of the population. He pointed out that all three communities—Sinhala, Tamils, and Muslims—are today living in the Mahaweli areas.

Mr Premadasa further said that the government is today holding discussions with all sections of the people and it had promised justice. The president also said that he welcomed all sections who earlier resorted to violence and now joined the democratic process, forgiving all their militant activities. He said the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is now ready to join the democratic process. However, various external and internal powers are trying to create differences among the Sri Lankan people. Mr Premadasa appealed to the entire population not to fall prey to these powers as there is no room for anybody to appeal to the government for justice. [passage omitted]